

A
Sure Guide
Joan TO *Phillips*
HEAVEN.
1790.

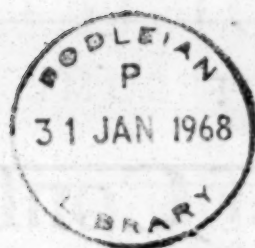
WITH THE
RESOLUTION
OF SOME
Cases of Conscience
AND SOME
Affectionate and Serious
COUNSELS.

L O N D O N :

Printed for **Thomas Parkhurst** at the Bible
and Three Crowns, the lower end of Cheapside
near Mercers-Chappel, 1705.

Ann Thomas's book given her

by her Uncle Dr. Newclyn 1773.



THE PREFACE.

ALL that know any thing of Religion are Agreed, that it is made up of Piety and Charity: And that as that Piety is lame and grossly Defective, which produceth not the Fruits of Charity; so that of all sorts of Charity, that which reaches the Souls of Men, and helps to spread true Piety among them, is the most honourable to God, and therefore the most pleasing to Him; and will have the highest Reward.

What is here offer'd to Perusal, is a serious Endeavour of One, who was once a faithful Ambassadour for Christ here on Earth, but now a glorious Saint in Heaven, to draw others off from a vain World, that they may share in the same Happiness with him: And the present Edition of this Work is owing to the Eminent Charity of one, who according to the Admonition of our Blessed Saviour, has been unwilling to let his Left Hand know what his

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The Preface.

Right Hand has done. He is as entirely unknown to the Editors, as to the Readers: But such a Gift spread through the Land, though none that receive it know from what Hand it comes, is assuredly a most acceptable Thank-offering to God, and will turn to good Account another Day.

May the God of all Grace, inspire others of Ability, in the degenerate Age we live in, with a like charitable Disposition: May the Donour have an ample Present Reward of his Christian Liberality, in multiply'd spiritual Blessings: May the serious Prayers of many Souls that receive Benefit, for their unknown Benefactor, have a gracious Return: May He meet many hereafter in Heaven, whom this Gift of his help'd thither: May none have a share in it without some Benefit: And may he that has manifested so great a Concern for the Eternal Welfare of his Country-Men, have himself an abundant Entrance at the Last, into God's Heavenly Kingdom: Thus heartily Pray,

*They that chearfully undertook
to Minister this Gift to others.*

E. C.

E. B.

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TO

HEAVEN.

Dearly Beloved, and longed for. I gladly acknowledge my self a Debtor to you all, and am concerned, as I would be found a good Steward to the Household of God, to give to every one his Portion. But the Physician is most solicitous for those Patients, whose case is most doubtful and hazardous, and the Father's bowels are especially turned towards his dying Child. The numbers of the unconverted Souls among you call for my most earnest Compassions, and hasty diligence to pluck them out of the burning, *Jude 23.* and therefore to these first I shall apply my self in these Lines.

But whence shall I fetch my Arguments, or how shall I choose my words? Lord, wherewith shall I woo them? Wherewith shall I win them? O that I could but tell! I would write unto them in Tears, would weep out every Argument, I would empty my Veins for Ink, I would petition them on my Knees, verily (were I able) I would. O how thankful I would be, if they would be prevailed with to Repent and Turn.

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Howe

How long have I travelled in birth with you? How frequently have I made suit to you? How often would I have gathered you? How instant have I been with you? This is that I have prayed for, and studied for, for many Years, that I might bring you to God: O that I might but do it! Will you yet be intreated? Oh what a happy Man might you make me, if you would but hearken to me, and suffer me to carry you over to Jesus Christ!

But, Lord, how insufficient am I for this work! I have been many a Year wooing for thee, but the Damsel would not go with me. Lord, what a Task hast thou set me to do! Alas, wherewith shall I pierce the Scales of Leviathan, or make the Heart to feel, that is hard as a Stone; hard as a piece of the nether Milstone? Shall I go and lay my Mouth to the Grave, and look when the dead will obey me and come forth? Shall I make an Oration to the Rocks? or declaim to the Mountains, and think to move them with Arguments? Shall I give the Blind to see? From the beginning of the World was it not heard, that a Man opened the Eyes of the Blind? But thou, O Lord, canst pierce the Scales, and prick the Heart of the Sinner. I can but shoot at Rovers, and draw the Bow at a venture, and do thou direct the Arrow between the Joints of the Harness and kill the Sin, and save the Soul of a Sinner, that casts his Eyes into these Labours.

✓ But I must apply my self to you, to whom I am sent: Yet I am at a great loss. Would to God I knew how to go to work with you! Would I stick at the Pains? God knoweth, you your selves are my Witnesses, how I have followed you in Private as well as in Publick, and have brought the Gospel to your Doors, testifying to you the necessity of the New Birth, and perswading you to look in time after a sound and thorough Change. Beloved, I have not acted a part among you, to serve my own Advantage: Our Gospel is not Yea, and Nay. Have you not heard the same Truths from the Pulpit, by publick Labours, and by private Letters, by personal Instructions? Brethren,
I am

I am of the same Mind as ever, that Holiness is the best choice; that there is no entring into Heaven but by the streight Passages of the second Birth; that without Holiness you shall never see God, *Heb. 12. 14.* Ah my Beloved! refresh my Bowels in the Lord. *If there be any Consolation in Christ, any comfort of Love, any fellowship of the Spirit, any Bowels and Mercies, fulfil you my Joy.* Now give your selves unto the Lord, *2 Cor. 8. 5.* Now set your selves to seek him. Now set up the Lord Jesus in your Hearts, and set him up in your Houses: Now come in and kiss the Son, *Psal. 2. 12.* and embrace the tenders of Mercy. Touch his Scepter and live; why will you die? I beg not for my self; but fain I would have you happy: This is the prize I run for, and the white I aim at. My Soul's desire and prayer for you is, that you may be saved, *Rom. 10. 1.*

The famous *Lycurgus* having instituted most strict and wholesome Laws for his People, told them, he was necessitated to go a Journey from them, and got them to bind themselves in an Oath, that his Laws should be observed till his return. This done, he went into a voluntary Banishment, and never returned more, that they might by vertue of their Oath, be engaged to the perpetual observing of his Laws. Methinks I should be glad of the hard Conditions, which he endured (though I love you tenderly) so I might but hereby engage you throughly to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Dearly Beloved, would you rejoice the Heart of your Minister? Why then, embrace the Counsels of the Lord by me; forego your Sins, set to Prayer, up with the Worship of God in your Families; keep at a distance from the Corruptions of the Times. What greater joy to a Minister, than to hear of Souls born unto Christ by him, and that his Children walk in the Truth? *2 John 4.*

Brethren, I beseech you, suffer my friendly plainness and freedom with you in your deepest Concernments. I am not playing the Orator, to make a learned Speech

to you, nor dressing my Dish with Eloquence, wherewith to please you. These Lines are upon a weighty Errand indeed, viz. to convince, and convert, and to save you. I am not baiting my Hook with Rhetorick, nor fishing for your Applause, but for your Souls. My work is not to please you, but to save you; nor is my Business with your Fancies, but your Hearts. If I have not your Hearts, I have nothing. If I were to please your Ears, I could sing another Song. If I were to preach my self, I would steer another course; I could then tell you a smooother Tale: I would make you Pillows, and speak you Peace: For how can *Ahab* love this *Micaiah* that always prophesies Evil concerning him? *1 Kings* 22. 8. But how much better are the wounds of a Friend, than the fair Speeches of the Harlot, who flattereth with her Lips, till the Dart strike through the Liver, and hunteth for the precious Life? *Prov.* 7. 21, 22, 23. and *Prov.* 6. 26. If I were to quiet a crying Child I might sing him to a pleasant Mood and rock him asleep. But when the Child is fallen into the Fire, the Parent takes another course; he will not go to still him with a Song or Trifle. I know if we speed not with you, you are lost. If we cannot get your Consent to arise, and come away, you perish for ever. No Conversion, and no Salvation: I must get your good will, or leave you miserable.

But here the difficulty of my Work again recurs upon me. Lord, *chuse my Stones out of the Rocks*, *1 Sam.* 17. 40, 45. *I come in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the Armies of Israel. I come forth like the stripping against Goliath, to wrestle, not with Flesh and Blood, but with Principalities and Powers, and the Rulers of the Darkness of this World,* *Ephes.* 6. 12. *This day let the Lord smite the Philistine, and spoil the strong Man of his Armour, and give me to fetch off the Captives out of his Hand. Lord choose my words, choose my weapons for me, and when I put my Hand into the bag, and take thence a Stone, and sling it, do thou carry it to the Mark, and make it sink, not into the Forehead,* *1 Sam.* 17. 49. *but the*

the heart of the unconverted Sinner, and smite him to the ground, with Saul in his so happy fall, Acts 9. 4. Thou hast sent me as Abraham did Eliezer, to take a Wife unto my Master, thy Son, Gen. 24. 4. But my discouraged soul is ready to fear the Woman will not be willing to follow me. O Lord God of my Master, I pray thee send me good speed this day, and shew kindness to my Master, and send thine Angel before me, and prosper my way, that I may take a Wife unto thy Son, Gen. 24. 12. That as the servant rested not till he had brought Isaac and Rebekah together, so I may be successful to bring Christ and the Souls of my people together, before we part.

But I turn me unto you. Some of you do not know what I mean by Conversion, and in vain shall I persuade you to that which you do not understand, and therefore for your sakes, I shall shew *what this Conversion is*. Others do cherish secret hopes of Mercy, tho' they continue as they be; and for them I must shew the *Necessity of Conversion*. Others are like to harden themselves with a vain Conceit, that they are converted already; unto them I must shew the *marks of the unconverted*. Others, because they feel no harm, fear none; and so sleep upon the top of the Mast; to them I shall shew *the misery of the unconverted*. Others sit still, because they see not their way out; to them I shall shew *the means of Conversion*. And finally for the quickening of all, I shall close with *the motives of Conversion*.

CHAP. I.

Shewing the Negative, what Conversion is not, and correcting some Mistakes about it.

LET the blind Samaritans worship they know not what, John 4. 22. Let the Heathen Athenians superscribe their Altar unto the unknown God, Acts 17. 23. Let the guileful Papists commend the mother of Destruction, Hos. 4. 6. for the mother of Devotion :

They that know Man's Constitution, and the nature of the reasonable Souls Operation, cannot but know, that the understanding having the Empire in the Soul, he that will go rationally to work, must labour to let in the Light here. *Ignorantis non est consensus.* And therefore, that you may not mistake me, I shall shew you what I mean by the Conversion I perswade you to endeavour after.

It is storied, that when *Jupiter* let down the golden Chaplets from Heaven, all of them but one were stolen: Whereupon (lest they should lose a relique of so great esteem) they made five others so like it, that if any were so wickedly minded as to steal that also, they should not be able to discern which was it. And truly my beloved, the Devil hath made many Counterfeits of this Conversion; and Cheats one with this, and another with that; and such a Craft and Artifice he hath, in this Mystery of Deceits, that (if it were possible) he would deceive the very Elect. Now that I may cure the damnable Mistakes of some, who think they are Converted when they are not; as well as remove the Troubles and Fears of others, that think they are not Converted when they are; I shall shew you the nature of Conversion, both Negatively, or what it is not; and Positively what it is.

We will begin with the Negative.

1. *It is not the taking on us the Profession of Christianity.* Doubtless Christianity is more than a Name. If we will hear *Paul*, it lies not in word, but in power, *1 Cor. 4. 20.* if to cease to be *Jews* and *Pagans*, and to put on the Christian Profession had been true Conversion, (as this is all, that some would have to be understood by it) who better Christians than they of *Sardis* and *Laodicea*? These were all Christians by Profession, and had a name to live, but because they had but a name, are condemned by Christ, and threatened to be spewed out, *Rev. 3. 1, 16.* Are there not many that name the name of the Lord Jesus, that yet depart not from Iniquity? *2 Tim. 2. 19.* and profess

profess they know God, but in works deny him? *Tit.* 1. 16. And will God receive these for true Converts, because turned to the Christian Religion? What? Converts from Sin, when yet they do live in Sin? 'Tis a visible contradiction. Surely if the Lamp of Profession would have served the turn, the foolish Virgins had never been shut out, *Mat.* 25. 3, 12. We find not only Professors but Preachers of Christ, and Wonder-workers turned off, because evil Workers, *Mat.* 7. 22, 23.

2. *It is not the being Washed in the laver of Regeneration*, or putting on the badge of Christ in Baptism. Many take the press Money, and wear the Livery of Christ, that yet never stand to their Colours, nor follow their Leader. *Ananias* and *Saphira*, and *Magus* were Baptized as well as the rest. How fondly do many mistake here, deceiving, and being deceived! dreaming that effectual Grace is necessarily tied to the external Administration of Baptism (which, what is it, but to revive the Popish Tenent, of the Sacraments working Grace, *ex opere operato*?) and so every Infant should be regenerated, not only (*Sacramento tenus*) sacramentally, but really and properly. Hence Men do fancy, that being regenerated already, when Baptized, they need no further work.

But if this were so, then all that were Baptized (in their Infancy) must necessarily be saved: Because the Promise of Pardon and Salvation is made to Conversion and Regeneration, *Act.* 3. 19. *1 Pet.* 3. 4. *Mat.* 19. 28. Our Calling, Sanctification, (as to the beginning of it) or Conversion (which are but the same thing, under different Conceptions and Expressions) is but a middle link in the Golden Chain, fastened to Election at the one end, and Glorification at the other, *Rom.* 8. 30. *2 Thes.* 2. 13. *1 Pet.* 1. 2. The Silver Cord may not be broken, nor the connexion between Sanctification and Salvation, between Grace and Glory, impiously violated, *Mat.* 5. 8. if we were indeed begotten again, it is to an Inheritance

incorruptible reserved in Heaven for us, and the Divine Power is engaged to keep us for it, *1 Pet. 1. 5.* And if the very regenerate may perish at last in their Sins, we will no more say, that he that is born of God, his seed remaineth in him, and that he cannot Sin, *1 Joh. 3. 9. i. e.* unto death, nor that it is impossible to deceive the very Elect, *Mat. 24. 24.*

And indeed were this true, then we need look no farther to see our names written in Heaven, than only to search the Register, and see whether we were Baptized: Then I would keep the Certificate of my Baptism, as my fairest Evidence for Heaven, and should come by assurance of my gracious State, with a wet Finger; then Men should do well to carry but a Certificate of their Baptism under the Registers Hand, when they died, (as the Philosopher would be buried with the Bishops Bond in his Hand, which he had given him for receiving his Alms in another World) and upon sight of this, there were no doubt of their admission into Heaven.

In short, if there be no more Necessary to Conversion or Regeneration, than to be turned to the Christian Religion, or to be baptized in Infancy, this will flie directly in the face of that Scripture, *Mat. 7. 14.* as well as multitudes of others. For, first, we will then no more say, *strait is the gate, and narrow is the way*; for if all that are Baptized, and of the true Religion, are saved, the door is become Heavenly wide, and we will henceforth say, wide is the Gate, and broad is the Way that leadeth unto Life; for if this be true, whole Parishes, yea whole Countries, and whole Kingdoms may go in a breast; and we will no more teach, that the Righteous is scarcely saved, or that there is need of such a stir in taking the Kingdom of Heaven by Violence, and striving to enter in. Surely if the way be so easie as many make it, that there is little more Necessary than to be regenerated in our Baptism, and cry God Mercy, and be absolved by the Minister at our end; 'tis more ado than needs to
put

put our selves to such running, and seeking, and knocking, and fighting, and wrestling, as the word requires as Necessary to Salvation. Secondly, If this be true, we will no more say, *Few there be that find it*; yea we will rather say, *Few there be that miss it*: We will no more say, that of the many that are called, *but few are chosen*, *Mat. 22. 14.* and that even of the professing *Israel*, *but a remnant shall be saved*, *Rom. 11. 5.* If this Doctrine be true we will not say any more with the Disciples, *Who then shall be saved?* but rather, who then shall not be saved? Then if a Man be called a brother, (that is, a Christian) and be Baptized, though he be a Fornicator, or a Railer, or Covetous, or a Drunkard, yet he shall inherit the Kingdom of God, *1 Cor. 5. 11.* *1 Cor. 6. 9, 10.*

But the *Arminian* will reply; such as these though they did receive regenerating Grace in Baptism, are since fallen away, and must be renewed again, or else they cannot be saved.

I Answer, 1. That there is an infallible connexion between Regeneration and Salvation, as we have already shewed, and I itch to be farther evidencing; but that 'tis against designed brevity. 2. Then Men must be twice born again, which carries a great deal of absurdity in its very face. And why may not Men be twice born in Nature, as well as in Grace? Why not as great an absurdity to be twice regenerated as to be twice generated? But, 3. And above all, This grants however the thing I contend for, that whatever Men do, or pretend to receive in Baptism, if they be found afterwards to be grossly ignorant, or profane, or formal, without the power of Godliness, they must be born again, or else be shut out of the Kingdom of God. So then they must have more to plead for themselves, than their baptismal Regeneration.

Well, in this you see all are agreed, that be it more or less that is received in Baptism, if (when Men come to Years) they are evidently Unsanctified, they must

must be renewed again by a through and powerful change, or else they cannot escape the damnation of Hell. Friends and Brethren, be not deceived, God is not mocked; *Gal. 6. 7.* Whether it be your Baptism, or what ever else that you pretend, I tell you from the living God, that if any of you be a prayerless Person, *Joh. 15. 14.* or unclean, or malicious, or covetous, or riotous, or a scoffer, or a lover of evil company, *Prov. 13. 20.* in a word, if you are not holy, strict and self-denying Christians, *Heb. 12. 14. Mat. 16. 24.* you cannot be saved, except you be transformed by a further work upon you, and renewed again by Repentance.

Thus I have shewed, that it is not enough to evidence a Man to be regenerate, that he hath been Baptized, effectual Grace not necessarily accompanying Baptism, as some have vainly asserted. But I must Answer one Objection before I pass.

Object. The Sacraments do certainly attain their ends, where Man doth not *ponere obicem*, or lay some obstruction, which Infants do not.

Sol. I Answer, It is not the end of Baptism to regenerate, 1. Because then there would be no Reason, why it should be confined only to the seed of Believers, for both the Law of God, and the nature of Charity, requires us to use the means of Conversion for all, as far as we can have opportunity. Were this true, no such Charity as to catch the Children of *Turks* and *Heathens*, and Baptize them, and dispatch them to Heaven out of hand; like the bloody Wretches, that made the poor Protestants (to save their Lives) to Swear they would come to Mass, and that they would never depart from it, and then put them forthwith to Death, saying, *They would hang them while in a good mind.* 2. Because it presupposeth Regeneration, and therefore cannot be intended to confer it. In all the express instances in Scripture, we find that Baptism doth suppose their repenting, believing, receiving the Holy Ghost, *Acts 8. 37. Acts 2. 38. Acts 10. 47.*

Mark

Mark 16. 16. And to imagine, that Baptism was instituted for an end of which not one of the first Subjects was capable (for they were all adult Persons and supposed to have Faith and Repentance, according as they professed, and their Children were not baptized till after them, in their right,) were no little absurdity. Were this Doctrine true, Baptism would make Disciples, but we find it doth bespeak them such beforehand, *Mat.* 28. 19, 3. Because Baptism being but a Seal of the Covenant, cannot convey the Benefits, but according to the Tenour of the Covenant, to which it is set.

Now the Covenant is conditional, therefore the Seal conveys conditionally. The Covenant requires Faith and Repentance, as the condition of the grand Benefits, Pardon, and Life, *Acts* 16. 31. *Acts* 3. 19. And what the Covenant doth not convey but upon these conditions, the Seal cannot. So that Baptism doth presuppose Faith and Repentance in the Subject, without which it neither doth nor can convey the saving Benefits; otherwise the Seal should convey, contrary to the Tenour of the Covenant to which it is affixed.

3. *It lies not in a moral Righteousness.* This exceeds not the Righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, and therefore cannot bring us to the Kingdom of God, *Mat.* 5. 20. *Paul*, i. e. while unconverted, was *Touching the Righteousness which is in the Law blameless*, *Phil.* 3. 6. None could say black is thine Eye. The self-justiciary could say, *I am no Extortioner, Adulterer, Unjust, &c.* *Luke* 18. 11. Thou must have something more than all this to shew, or else (however thou mayst justify thy self) God will condemn thee. I condemn not Morality, but warn you not to rest here. Piety includes Morality, as Christianity doth Humanity, and Grace Reason. But we must not divide the Tables.

4. *It consists not in an external conformity to the Rules of Piety.* 'Tis too manifest, Men may have a form of Godliness, without the power, *2 Tim.* 3. 5. Men may
pray

pray long, *Mat.* 23. 14. and fast often, *Luke* 18. 12. and hear gladly, *Mark* 6. 20. and be very forward in the Service of God, though costly and expensive, *Isa.* 1. 11. and yet be Strangers to Conversion. They must have more to plead for themselves, than that they keep their Church, and give Alms, and make use of Prayer, to prove themselves sound Converts. No outward service but an Hypocrite may do it; even to the giving all his Goods to the Poor, and his Members to the Fire, *1 Cor.* 13. 3.

5. *It lies not in the chaining up of Corruption by Education, humane Laws, or the force of incumbent Affliction.* 'Tis too common and easie to mistake Education for Grace; but if this were enough, who a better Man than *Jehoash*? While *Jehojadah* his Uncle lived, he was very forward in God's Service, and calls upon him to repair the House of the Lord, *2 Kings* 12. 2, 7. But here was nothing more than good Education all this while; for when his good Tutor was taken out of the way, he appears to have been but a Wolf chained up, and falls on to Idolatry.

6. *In short, it consists not only in Illumination, or Conviction, in a superficial Change, or partial Reformation.* An *Apostate* may be a Man enlightned, *Heb.* 6. 4. and a *Felix* tremble under Convictions, *Acts* 24. 25. and a *Herod* amend many things, *Mark* 6. 20. 'Tis one thing to have Sin alarm'd only by Convictions, and another to have it captivated and crucified by converting Grace. Many, because they have been troubled in Conscience for their Sins, think well of their Case; miserably mistaking Conviction for Conversion. With these *Cain* might have passed for a Convert, who ran up and down the World, like a Man distracted under the rage of a guilty Conscience, till with building and business he had worn it away, *Gen.* 4. 13, 14. Others think, that because they have given off their riotous Courses, and are broken off from Evil Company, or some particular Lust, and reduced to Sobriety and Civility, they are now no other than real Converts,

verts, forgetting that there is a vast difference between being sanctified, and civilized: And that many seek to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, *Luke 13. 24.* and are not far from it, *Mark 12. 34.* and arrive to the *almost* of Christianity, *Acts 26. 28.* and yet fall short at last. Whilst Conscience holds the whip over them, many will pray, hear, read, and forbear their delightful Sins: But no sooner is this Lion asleep, but they are at their Vomit again. Who more religious than the *Jews*, when God's hand was upon them? *Psal. 78. 34, 45.* but no sooner was the Affliction over, but they forgot God, and shewed their Religion to be a fit, *ver. 36, 37.* Thou mayst have disgorged a troublesome Sin, that will not sit in thy Stomach, and have escaped those gross pollutions of the World, and yet not have changed thy swinish Nature all the while, *2 Pet. 2. 20, 22.*

You may cast the Lead out of the rude Mass into the more comely proportion of a Plant, and then into the shape of a Beast; and thence into the Form and Features of a Man; but all the while it is but Lead still. So a Man may pass through divers Transmutations, from Ignorance to Knowledge, from Profaneness to Civility, thence to a form of Religion; and all this while he is but Carnal and Unregenerate, while his Nature remains unchanged.

Application. *Hear then, O sinners, hear as you would live; so come and hear, Isa. 55. 3.* Why would you so wilfully deceive your selves, or build your hopes upon the Sand? I know, he shall find hard work of it, that goes to pluck away your Hopes. It cannot but be ungrateful to you, and truly it is not pleasing to me. I set about it as a Surgeon, when to cut off a putrified Member from his well Beloved Friend; which of force he must do, but with an aking Heart, a pitiful Eye, a trembling Hand. But understand me, Brethren, I am only taking down the ruinous House, (which will otherwise speedily fall of it self, and bury you in the Rubbish) that I may build fair, and strong,
and

and firm for ever. The hope of the Wicked shall perish, if God be true of his Word, *Prov.* 11. 7. And wert not thou better, O sinner, to let the Word convince thee now in time, and let go thy false and self-deluding Hopes, than to have Death too late to open thine Eyes, and find thy self in Hell, before thou art aware? I should be a false and faithless Shepherd, if I should not tell you, that you, who have built your hopes upon no better grounds than these forementioned, are yet in your Sins. Let your Conscience speak; what is it that you have to plead for your selves? Is it that you wear Christ's Livery; that you bear his Name; that you are of the Visible Church? that you have knowledge in the Points of Religion? are civilized, perform religious Duties, are just in your Dealings; have been troubled in Conscience for your Sins? I tell you from the Lord, these Pleas will never be accepted at God's Bar. All this, though good in it self, will not prove you converted, and so will not suffice to your Salvation, Oh look about you, and bethink your selves of turning speedily and soundly. Set to praying and to reading, and studying your own Hearts; rest not till God hath made thorough work with you; for you must be other Men, or else you are lost Men.

But if these be short of Conversion, what shall I say of the prophane Sinner? It may be, he will scarce cast his Eyes, or lend his Ears to this Discourse. But if there be any such Reading, or within Hearing, he must know from the Lord that made him, that he is far from the Kingdom of God. May a Man be civilized and yet not converted; where then shall the Drunkard, and Glutton appear? May a Man keep Company with the wise Virgins, and yet be shut out? Shall not a Companion of Fools much more be destroyed? *Prov.* 13. 20. May a Man be true and just in his Dealing, and yet not be justified of God? What then will become of thee, O wretched Man, whose Conscience tells thee thou art false in thy Trade, and false

false of thy Word, and makest thy Advantage by a lying Tongue? If Men may be enlightned, and brought to the performance of Holy Duties, and yet go down to Perdition, for resting in them, and sitting down on this side of Conversion; what will become of you, O miserable Families, that live as without God in the World? And of you, O wretched Sinners, with whom God is scarce in all your Thoughts: That are so ignorant, that you cannot, or so careless, that you will not pray? O repent and be converted! break off your Sins by Righteousness; away to Christ for pardoning and renewing Grace; give up your selves to him, to walk with him in Holiness, or else you shall never see God. Oh that you would take the warnings of God! In his Name I once more admonish you. Turn you at my Reproof, *Prov. 1. 23.* Forsake the Foolish, and live, *Prov. 9. 6.* Be sober, righteous, godly, *Titus 2. 12.* Wash your Hands you Sinners, purifie your Hearts ye double minded, *James 4. 8.* Cease to do evil, learn to do well, *Isa. 1. 16, 17.* But if you will on, you must die, *Ezek. 33. 11.*

CHAP. II.

Shewing positively what Conversion is.

I May not leave you with your Eyes half open, as he that saw Men as Trees walking, *Mark 8. 24.* The Word is profitable for Doctrine, as well as Reproof, *2 Tim. 3. 16.* And therefore having thus far conducted you by the Shelves and Rocks of so many dangerous mistakes, I would guide you at length into the Harbour of Truth.

Conversion then (in short) lies, in the thorow change both of the Heart, and Life. I shall briefly describe it in its Nature and Causes.

1. *The Author of it is the Spirit of God; and therefore it is called the sanctification of the Spirit, 2 Thess. 2. 13.* and the renewing of the Holy Ghost, *Tit. 3. 5.*

Yet

Yet not excluding the other Persons in the Trinity: For the Apostle teaches us, to bless the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for that he hath begotten us again; *1 Pet. 1. 3.* and Christ is said to give Repentance to *Israel; Acts 5. 31.* and is called the everlasting Father, *Isa. 9. 6.* and we his seed, and the Children which God hath given him, *Heb. 2. 13. Isa. 53. 10.* O blessed Birth! Seven Cities contended for the Birth of *Homer*: But the whole Trinity Fathers the new Creature. Yet is this work principally ascribed to the Holy Ghost, and so we are said to be born of the Spirit, *Joh. 3. 8.*

So then it is a work above Man's Power. We are born, not of the will of the Flesh, nor of the will of Man; but of God, *John 1. 13.* Never think thou canst convert thy self. If ever thou wouldst be savingly converted, thou must despair of doing it in thine own strength, *Jer. 13. 18.* It is a Resurrection from the Dead, *Rev. 20. 5. Eph. 2. 1.* a new Creation, *Gal. 6. 15. Eph. 2. 10.* a work of absolute omnipotency, *Eph. 1. 19.* Are these out of the reach of humane Power? If thou hast no more than thou hadst by thy first Birth, a good Nature, a meek and chaste Temper, &c. thou art a very stranger to true Conversion. This is a supernatural work.

2. *The moving Cause is Internal, or External.*

The Internal mover is only free Grace. Not by works of Righteousness which we have done; but of his own Mercy he saved us—by the renewing of the Holy Ghost, *Tit. 3. 5.* *Of his own will begat he us, Jam. 1. 18.* We are chosen and called *unto Sanctification*, not for it, *Eph. 1. 4. 2 Thes. 2. 13.*

God finds nothing in a Man to turn his Heart, but to turn his stomach: Enough to provoke his loathing, nothing to provoke his Love. Look back upon thy self, O Christian: Take up thy verminous Rags: Look upon thy self in thy Blood, *Ezek. 16. 6.* O reflect upon thy swinish Nature, thy filthy Swill, thy once beloved Mire, *2 Pet. 2.* Canst thou think without loathing of thy trough and draught? Open thy Sepulchre,

Sepulchre, *Mat. 23. 27.* Art thou not struck almost dead with the hellish damp? Behold thy putrid Soul, thy loathsome Members. O stench unsufferable, if thou dost but sense thy own putrifaction! *Psal. 14. 3.* Behold thy ghastly Visage, thy crawling Lusts, thy Slime and Corruption. Do not thine own Clothes abhor thee? *Job 9. 31.* How then should Holiness and Purity love thee? Be astonished, O Heavens, at this, be moved, O Earth, *Jer. 2. 12.* Who but must needs cry, Grace! Grace! *Zech. 4. 7.* Hear and blush, you Children of the most High; O you unthankful Generation! that free Grace is no more in your Mouths, in your Thoughts; no more adored, admired, commended by such as you. One would think you should be nothing but praising and admiring God, whatever you are. How can you make a shift to forget such Grace, or to pass it over with a slight and seldom mention; What but free Grace should move God to love you, unless enmity could do it, or deformity could do it; unless vomit or rottenness could do it? How affectionately doth *Peter* lift up his Hands? *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who of his abundant mercy hath begotten us again, 1 Pet. 1. 3.* How feelingly doth *Paul* magnifie the free Mercy of God in it? *God, who is rich in mercy for his great love wherewith he loved us, hath quickned us together with Christ; by grace ye are saved, Ephes. 2. 4, 5.*

The External mover is the merit and intercession of the blessed Jesus. He hath obtained Gifts for the rebellious, *Psal. 68. 18.* and through him it is, that God worketh in us, what is well pleasing in his sight, *Heb. 13. 21.* Through him are all spiritual blessings bestowed upon us in Heavenly Things, *Eph. 1. 3.* He intercedeth for the Elect, that believe not, *John 17. 20.* Every Convert is the Fruit of his Travel, *Isa. 53. 11.* O never was Infant born into the World with that difficulty, that Christ endured for us. How emphatically he groaneth in his Travel? All the pains

that he suffered on his Cross they were our birth pains, *Acts* 2. 24. *Adyas*, the pulls and throws that Christ endured for us. He is made Sanctification to us, *1 Cor.* 1. 30. He Sanctified himself (that is, set apart himself as a Sacrifice) that we may be Sanctified, *John* 17. 19. We are Sanctified through the offering of his Body once for all, *Heb.* 10. 10.

'Tis nothing then without his own Bowels, but the merit and intercession of Christ, that prevails with God to bestow on us converting Grace. If thou art a new Creature, thou knowest to whom thou owest it, to Christ's Pangs and Prayers. Hence the natural Affection of a Believer to Christ. The Foal doth not more naturally run after the Dam, nor the Suckling to the Dugs, than a Believer to Jesus Christ. And whither else should'st thou go? If any in the World can shew that for thy heart, that Christ can, let them carry it. Doth Satan put in? Doth the World court thee? Doth Sin sue for thy Heart? Why? were these Crucified for thee? *1 Cor.* 1. 13. O Christian, love & serve the Lord whilst thou hast a Being. Do not even the Publicans love those that love them? And shew kindness to them that are kind to them? *Mat.* 5. 46, 47.

3. *The Instrument is either Personal, or Real.*

The personal is the Ministry. I have begotten you to Christ through the Gospel, *1 Cor.* 4. 15. Christ's Ministers are they that are sent to open Mens Eyes, and to turn them to God, *Acts* 26. 18.

O unthankful World! little do you know what you are doing, while you are persecuting the Messengers of the Lord. These are they whose business is (under Christ) to save you. Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you exalted your Voice, and lifted your Eyes on high? *Isa.* 37. 23. These are the Servants of the most High God, that shew unto you the way of Salvation, *Acts.* 16. 17. and do you thus requite them, O foolish and unwise? *Deut.* 32. 6. O Sons of ingratitude, against whom do you sport your Selves? Against whom
make

make you a wide Mouth, and draw out the Tongue? *Isa.* 57. 34. These are the Instruments that God useth to convert and save you, and do you spit in the Face of your Physicians, and throw your Pilots over-board? Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.

The Instrument Real is the Word. We were begotten by the Word of truth: This is it that enlightens the Eyes; that converteth the Soul, *Psal.* 19. 7, 8. that maketh wise to Salvation, *2 Tim.* 3. 15. This is the incorruptible seed, by which we are born again, *1 Pet.* 1. 23. If we are washed, 'tis by the Word, *Eph.* 5. 26. if we are Sanctified, 'tis through the Truth, *John* 17. 17. This generates Faith, and regenerates us, *Rom.* 10. 17. *Jam.* 1. 18.

O ye Saints, how should you love the Word? for by this you have been converted: O ye Sinners, how should you ply the Word? For by this you must be converted: No other ordinary means but this. You that have felt its renewing Power, make much of it while you live, be for ever thankful for it. Tie it about your Necks, write it upon your Hands, lay it in your Bosoms, *Prov.* 6. 21, 22. When you go let it lead you; when you sleep let it keep you; when you wake let it talk with you: Say with holy *David*, I will never forget thy Precepts, for by them hast thou quickened me, *Psal.* 119. 93. You that are unconverted, read the Word with diligence, flock to it, where powerfully preached, fill the Porches, as the multitude of the impotent, blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the Water, *John* 5. 3. Pray for the coming of the Spirit in the Word. Come off thy Knees to the Sermon; and come to thy Knees from the Sermon. The seed doth not prosper because not watered by Prayers and Tears, nor covered by Meditation.

4. *The final cause is Mans Salvation, and God's Glory.* We are chosen through Sanctification to Salvation, *2 Thes.* 2. 13. Called that we might be Glorified, *Rom.*

8. 30. but especially, that God might be glorified, *Isa.* 60. 21. that we should shew forth his Praises, *1 Pet.* 2. 9. and be fruitful in good Works, *Col.* 1. 10.

O Christian, do not forget the end of thy Calling; let thy light shine, *Mat.* 5. 16. Let thy Lamp burn, let thy Fruits be good, and many, and in Season, *Psal.* 1. 3. Let all thy designs fall in with God's, that he may be magnified in thee, *Phil.* 1. 20. Why should God repent, that he hath made thee a Christian, as in the time of the old World, that he made them Men? *Gen.* 6. 6. Why shouldst thou be an eye-sore in his Orchard, *Luke* 13. 7. by thy unfruitfulness? or a Son that causeth shame, as it were a grief to thy Father, and a bitterness to her that bare thee, *Prov.* 17. 25. *Prov.* 10. 5. O let the Womb bless thee that bare thee, *Prov.* 17. 21. He that begets a Fool doth it to his Sorrow; and the Father of a Fool hath no Joy.

5. *The subject is the Elect sinner, and that in all his Parts, and Powers, Members, and Mind.* Whom God predestinates them only he calls, *Rom.* 8. 30. None are drawn to Christ by their calling, nor come to him by believing, but his Sheep, those whom the Father hath given him, *John* 6. 37, 44. Effectual calling runs parallel with eternal Election, *2 Pet.* 1. 10.

Thou beginnest at the wrong end, if thou disputest first about thine Election. Prove thy Conversion, and then never doubt of thine Election. Or canst thou not yet prove it? Set upon a present and thorough turning. Whatever God's purposes be, (which are secret) I am sure his promises are plain. How desperately do rebels argue? If I am elected I shall be saved, do what I will; if not I shall be damned, do what I can. Perverse Sinner, wilt thou begin where thou shouldst end? Is not the word before thee? What saith it? *Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, Acts* 3. 19. *If you mortifie the deeds of the body, you shall live, Rom.* 8. 13. *Believe and be saved, Acts* 16. 31. What can be plainer? Do not stand still

still, disputing about thine Election, but set to repenting and believing. Cry to God for converting Grace. Revealed things belong to thee; in these busie thy self. 'Tis just (as one well said) that they that will not feed on the plain Food of the Word, should be choaked with the Bones. *Whatever God's purposes be, I am sure his promises be true.* Whatever the decrees of Heaven be, I am sure, that if I Repent and Believe I shall be saved; and that if I Repent not I shall be damned. Is not here plain ground for thee, and wilt thou yet run upon the Rocks?

More particularly, this change of Conversion passes throughout in the whole Subject. A carnal Person may have some shreds of good Morality, a little near the list, but he is never good throughout the whole Cloth, the whole body of Holiness and Christianity: Feel him a little further near the Ridge, and you shall see him to be but a deceitful piece. Conversion is not repairing of the old Building, but it takes all down, and erects a new Structure: It is not the putting in a patch, or sowing on a list of Holiness: But with the true Convert, Holiness is woven into all his Powers, Principles, and Practice. The sincere Christian is quite a new Fabrick, from the Foundation to the Top-stone, all fire new. He is a new Man, *Eph. 4. 24.* a new Creature. All things are become new, *2 Cor. 5. 17.* Conversion is a deep work; a Heart work, *Acts 2. 37.* and *6. 14.* it turns all upside down, and makes a Man be in a new *World.* It goes throughout with Men, throughout the Mind, throughout the Members, throughout the Motions of the whole Life.

1. *Throughout the Mind.* It makes an universal change within. First, It turns the Ballance of the Judgment, so that God and his Glory do weigh down all carnal and worldly Interest, *Acts 20. 24.* *Phil. 1. 20.* *Psal. 73. 25.* It opens the eye of the Mind, and makes the Scales of its Native Ignorance to fall off, and turns Men from darkness to light, *Acts 26. 18.* *Ephes. 5. 8.* *1 Pet. 2. 9.* The Man that before saw

danger in his Condition, now concludes himself lost, and for ever undone, *Acts* 2. 37. except renewed by the Power of Grace. He that formerly thought there was little hurt in Sin, now comes to see it to be the chief of Evils; he sees the unreasonableness, unrighteousness, the deformity and filthiness that is in Sin, so that he is affrighted with it, loaths it, dreads it, flies it, and even abhors himself for it, *Rom.* 7. 15. *Job* 42. 6. *Ezek.* 36. 31. He that could see little Sin in himself, and could find no matter for Confession; as it was said of that learned Ignoramus *Bellarmino* (who it seems while he knew so *much* abroad, was a miserable Stranger to himself) that when he was to be confessed by the Priest, could not remember any thing to confess, but was fain to run back to the Sins of his Youth. I say, he that could not find matter for Confession, unless it were some few gross and staring Evils, now Sin reviveth with him, *Rom.* 7. 9. he sees the rottenness of his Heart, and desperate and deep pollution of his whole Nature: He cries, Unclean, Unclean, *Levit.* 13. 45. Lord purge me with Hyssop, wash me thoroughly, create in me a new Heart, *Psal.* 51. 2, 7, 10. He sees himself altogether becomes filthy, *Psal.* 14. 3. corrupt, both Root and Tree, *Mat.* 7. 17, 18. he writes unclean upon all his Parts and Powers, and Performances, *Isa.* 64. 6. *Rom.* 7. 18. He discovers the nasty corners, that he was never aware of, and sees the Blasphemy, and Theft, and Murder, and Adultery that is in his Heart, which before he was ignorant of. Heretofore he saw no Form, nor Comeliness in Christ, no Beauty, that he should desire him; but now he finds the hid Treasure, and will sell all to buy this Field. Christ is the Pearl he seeks, Sin the puddle he loaths.

Now according to this new Light, the Man is of another Mind, another Judgment than before he was: Now God is all with him, he hath none in Heaven, nor in Earth like him, *Psal.* 73. 25. He prefers him truly before all the World; his Favour is his Life; more than Corn.

or Wine, and Oyl, the good that he formerly enquired after, and set his Heart upon, *Psal.* 4. 6, 7.) Now let all the World be set on one side, and God alone on the other: Let the Harlot put on her Paint and Gallantry, and present her self to the Soul (as when Satan would have tempted our Saviour with her) in all the Glory of her Kingdoms, yet the Soul will not fall down and worship her; but will prefer a naked, yea a crucified, persecuted Christ before her, *Phil.* 3. 8. *1 Cor.* 2. 2. Not but that a Hypocrite may come to yield a general Assent to this, that God is the chief good: Yea, the wiser Heathens (some few of them) have at last stumbled upon this; but there is a difference between the absolute and comparative Judgment of the Understanding. No Hypocrite comes so far, as to look upon God as the most desirable and suitable good to him, and thereupon to acquiesce in him. This was the Convert's voice, *The Lord is my Portion, saith my Soul. Whom have I Heaven but thee? and there is none upon Earth that I desire besides thee; God is the strength of my Heart, and my Portion for ever,* *Psal.* 73. 25, 26. *Lam.* 3. 24.

Secondly, *It turns the byass of the Will, both as to Means and Ends.* (1.) *The intention of the Will is altered,* *Ezek.* 36. 26. *Jer.* 31. 33. *Isa.* 26. 8, 9. Now the Man hath new ends and designs. Now he intends God above all, and desires and designs nothing in all the World so much, as that Christ may be magnified in him, *Phil.* 1. 20. He accounts himself more happy in this, than in all that the Earth could yield, that he may be serviceable to Christ, and bring him Glory in his Generation. This is the mark he aims at, that the Name of Jesus may be great in the World, and that all the Sheaves of his Brethren may bow to his Sheaf.

Reader, Dost thou view this, and never ask thy self, whether it be thus with thee? Pause a while, and breath on this great Concernment.

2. *The Election also is changed,* so that he chuse another way, *Psal.* 119. 30. He pitches upon God a

his blessedness, and upon Christ as the principal, and Holiness, as the subordinate means to bring him to God, *John* 14. 6. *Rom.* 2. 7. He chuses Jesus for his Lord, *Col.* 2. 6. He is not merely forced into Christ by the Storm, nor doth he take Christ for bare necessity, as the Man begged from the Gallows, when he takes the Wife rather than the Halter: But he comes off freely in the Choice. This Match is not made in a fright, as with the terrified Conscience of a dying Sinner, that will seemingly do any thing for Christ, but doth only take Christ, rather than Hell: But he deliberately resolves, that Christ is his best choice, *Phil.* 1. 23. and would rather have him to chuse, than all the good of this World, might he enjoy it while he would. Again, He takes Holiness for his Path: He doth not out of mere necessity submit to it; but he likes and loves it. *I have chosen the way of thy Precepts*, *Psal.* 119. 173. He takes God's Testimonies not as his Bondage, but as his Heritage, yea his Heritage for ever, *ver.* 111. He counts them not his Burden, but his Bliss; not his Cords, but his Cordials, *1 John* 5. 3. *Psal.* 119. 14, 16, 17. He doth not only bear, but take up Christ's Yoke: He takes not Holiness as the Stomach doth the loathed potion (which it will down with rather than die) but as the Hungry doth his beloved Food: No time passes so sweetly with him (when he is himself) as that he spends in the exercises of Holiness; these are both his aliment, and element, the desire of his Eyes, and the joy of his Heart, *Job* 23. 12. *Psal.* 119. 82, 131, 162, 174. *Psal.* 63. 5.

Put thy Conscience to it as thou goest, whether thou art the Man; O happy Man, if this be thy case; but see thou be thorow and impartial in the search.

3. *It turns the bent of the Affections*, *1 Cor.* 7. 11. These run all in a new Channel. The *Jordan* is now driven back, and the Water runs upward against its natural course.

Christ is his *Hope*, *1 Tim.* 1. 1. This is his Prize, *Phil.* 3. 8. here his Eye is, here his Heart is. He is
contented

contented to cast all overboard (as the Merchant in the Storm, ready to perish) so he may but keep this Jewel.

The first of his *desires* is, not after Gold, but Grace, *Phil.* 3. 13. He hungers after it, he seeks it as Silver, he digs for it as for hid Treasure; he had rather be gracious, than be great; he had rather be the holiest Man on Earth, than the most learned, the most famous, most prosperous. While carnal, he said, Oh if I were but in great Esteem, and rolled in Wealth, and swim'd in pleasure; if my Debts were paid, and I and mine provided for, then I were a happy Man; but now the Tune is changed. Oh, saith the Convert, if I had but my Corruptions subdued, if I had such measures of Grace, such Fellowship with God, tho' I were poor and despised, I should not care, I should account my self a blessed Man. Reader, Is this the Language of thy Soul?

His *Joys* are changed. He rejoiceth in the ways of God's Testimonies, as much as in all Riches, *Psal.* 119. 14. He delights in the Law of the Lord, wherein once he had little Savour. He hath no such Joy, as in the Thoughts of Christ, the Fruition of his Company, the Prosperity of his People.

His *cares* are quite altered. He was once set for the World, and any scraps of by-time, (nothing too often) was enough for his Soul. Now he gives over caring for the Asses, and sets his Heart on the Kingdom. Now all the cry is, *What shall I do to be saved?* *Acts* 16. 30. His great solicitude is, how to secure his Soul. Oh! how he would bless you, if you could but put him out of doubt of this!

His *fears* are not so much of suffering, but of sinning, *Heb.* 11. 25, 27. Once he was afraid of nothing so much as the loss of his Estate, or Esteem, the pleasure of Friends, the frowns of the great: Nothing sounded so terrible to him as Pain, or Poverty, or Disgrace. Now these are little to him, in comparison of God's *dishonour* or *displeasure*. How warily doth he

he walk, lest he should tread on a Snare? He feareth alway; he looks before and behind; he hath his Eye upon his Heart, and is often casting over his Shoulder, lest he should be overtaken with Sin, *Psal.* 39. 1. *Prov.* 28. 14. *Eccles.* 2. 14. It kills his Heart to think of losing God's Favour; this he dreads as his only undoing, *Psal.* 51. 11, 12. *Psal.* 119. 8. No thought in the World doth pinch him, and pain him so much, as to think of parting with Christ.

His love runs a new course. My love was crucified (said holy *Ignatius*) that is, my Christ. This is my Beloved, saith the Spouse, *Cant.* 5. 18. How doth *Augustine* often pour his Loves upon Christ; O Eternal Blessedness, &c.

He can find no words sweet enough. *Let me see thee, O light of mine Eyes. Come, O thou joy of my Spirit; Let me behold thee, O the gladness of my Heart. Let me love thee, O life of my Soul. Appear unto me, O my great delight, my sweet Comfort; O my God, my Life, and the whole glory of my Soul. Let me find thee, O desire of my Heart, Let me hold thee, O love of my Soul. Let me embrace thee, O heavenly Bridegroom. Let me possess thee.*

His sorrows have now a new vent, 2 *Cor.* 7. 9, 10. The view of his Sins, the sight of a Christ crucified, that would scarce stir him before, now how much do they affect his Heart?

His Hatred boils, his Anger burns against Sin, *Psal.* 119. 104. He hath no Patience with himself; he calls himself Fool, and Beast, and thinks any Name too good for himself, when his Indignation is stirred up against Sin, *Psal.* 73. 22. *Prov.* 30. 2. He could once swill in it with too much Pleasure, now he loaths the thought of returning to it, as much as of licking up the filthiest Vomit.

Commune then with thine own Heart, and attend the common and general current of thine Affections, whether it be towards God in Christ above all other Concernments. Indeed sudden and strong commotions of the Affections and Sensitive Part are oft-times found

found in Hypocrites, especially where the natural Constitution leads thereunto, and contrariwise, the sanctified themselves are many times without sensible stirrings of the Affections, where the Temper is more slow, dry, and dull. The great inquiry is, whether the Judgment and Will be standingly determined for God, above all other good, real or apparent: And if the Affections do sincerely follow their Choice and Conduct; though it be not so strongly and sensibly as it is to be desired, there is no doubt, but the change is saving.

2. *Thoroughout the Members.* Those that were before the instruments of Sin, are now become the holy utensils of Christ's living Temple, *Rom. 6. 16. 1 Cor. 3. 16.* He that before made, as it were, a Bawd, or a Barrel of his Body, now possesseth his vessel in Sanctification, and Honour, in Temperance, Chastity, and Sobriety, and dedicated to the Lord, *1 Thess. 4. 4. Gal. 5. 22, 23. 1 Cor. 6. 19, 20.*

The Eye that was once a wandering Eye, a wanton Eye, a haughty, a covetous Eye, is now employed, as *Mary*, in weeping over her Sins, *Luke 7. 38.* in beholding God in his works, *Psal. 8. 3.* in reading his Word, *Acts 8. 30.* in looking up and down for objects of Mercy, and opportunities for his Service.

The Ear that was once open to Satans call, and that (like a vitiated Palate) did relish nothing so much as filthy, or at least frothy talk, and the Fools laughter is now bored to the Door of Christ's House, and open to his Discipline. It saith, *Speak Lord, for thy Servant heareth.* It cries with him, *Veniat verbum Domini,* and waits for his Word as the Rain, and relishes them more than the appointed Food, *Job 23. 12.* than the Honey, and the Honey-Comb, *Psal. 19. 10.*

The Head, that was the Shop of worldly designs, is now filled with other matters, and set on the study of God's Will, *Psal. 1. 2. Psal. 119. 97.* and the Man beats his Head, not so much about his Gain, but about his Duty. The Thoughts and Cares that now

fill his head are principally, how he may please God, and flie Sin.

His Heart, that was a Sty of filthy Lusts, is now become an Altar of Incense, where the fire of Divine Love is ever kept in, and whence the daily sacrifice of Prayer and Praises, and sweet Incense of holy Desires, Ejaculations, and Anhelations are continually ascending, *Psal.* 108. 1. *Psal.* 119. 20. *Psal.* 139. 17, 18.

The mouth is become a Well of Life, his Tongue as choice Silver, and his Lips feed many; Now the Salt of Grace hath seasoned his Speech, and eat out the Corruption, *Col.* 4. 6. and cleansed the mouth from his filthy Communication, Flattery, Boasting, Railing, Lying, Swearing, Backbiting, that once came like the flashes proceeding from the Hell that was in the Heart, *James* 3. 6, 7. The Throat, that was once an open Sepulchre, *Rom.* 3. 13. now sends forth the sweet Breath of Prayer, and holy Discourse, and the Man speaks in another Tongue, in the Language of Canaan, and is never so well, as when talking of God, and Christ, and the matters of another World. His Mouth bringeth forth Wisdom, his Tongue is become the Silver Trumpet of his Maker's Praise, his Glory, and the best Member that he hath.

Now here you shall have the Hypocrite halting: He speaks it may be like an Angel, but he hath a covetous Eye, or the gain of unrighteousness in his hand. Or the hand is white, but his heart is full of rottenness, *Mat.* 23. 27. full of unmortified cares, a very Oven of Lust, a Shop of Pride, the Seat of Malice. It may be with *Nebuchadnezzar's* Image, he hath a Golden Head, a great deal of Knowledge but he hath Feet of Clay, his Affections are Worldly, he minds Earthly things, and his way and walk are sensual, and carnal, you may trace him in his secret haunts, and his footsteps will be found in some by-paths of Sin. The work is not thorowout with him.

3. *Thorowout the Motions, or the Life and Practice.* The new Man takes a new Course, *Eph.* 2. 2, 3. His Conversation is in Heaven, *Phil.* 3. 20. No sooner doth Christ call by effectual Grace, but he straightway becomes a follower of him, *Mat.* 4. 20. When God hath given the new Heart, and writ his Law in his Mind, he forthwith walks in his Statutes, and keeps his Judgments, *Ezek.* 36. 26, 27.

Though Sin may dwell (God knows a wearisome and unwelcome Guest) in him, yet it hath no more Dominion over him, *Rom.* 6. 7, 14. He hath his Fruit unto Holiness, *Rom.* 6. 22. and though he makes many a blot, yet the Law and Life of Jesus is that he Eyes, as his copy, *Psa.* 119. 30. *Heb.* 12. 2. and hath an unfeigned respect to all God's Commandments, *Psal.* 119. 6. He makes Conscience even of little Sins and little Duties, *Psal.* 119. 113. His very infirmities, which he cannot help, though he would, are his Souls burden, and are like the dust in a Man's Eye, which though but little, yet are not a little troublesome. [O Man dost thou read this, and never turn in upon thy Soul by self-examination?] The sincere Convert is not one Man at Church, and another at home, he is not a Saint on his Knees, and a Cheat in his Shop: He will not tithe Mint and Cummin, and neglect Mercy and Judgment, and the weighty matters of the Law; he doth not pretend Piety, and neglect Morality, *Mat.* 23. 14. but he turns from all his Sins, and keeps all God's Statutes, *Ezek.* 18. 21. tho' not perfectly (except in desire and indeavour) yet sincerely, not allowing himself in the breach of any, *Rom.* 7. 15. Now he delights in the Word, and sets himself to Prayer, and opens his Hand, (if able) and draws out his Soul to the hungry, *Rom.* 7. 22. *Psal.* 109. 4. *Isa.* 58. 10. He breaketh off his Sins by Righteousness, and his Iniquities by shewing Mercy to the poor, *Dan.* 4. 27. and hath a good Conscience, willing in all things to live honestly, *Heb.* 13. 18. and to keep without offence towards God and Men.

Here

Here again you shall find the unsoundness of many Professors, that take themselves for good Christians. They are partial in the Law, *Mal. 2. 9.* and take up with the cheap and easie Duties of Religion, but they go not thorow with the work. They are as a Cake not turned, half toasted, and half raw; It may be you shall have them exact in their words; punctual in their dealings; but then they do not exercise themselves unto Godliness; and for examining themselves, and governing their Hearts, to this they are Strangers. You may have them duly at the Church; but follow them to their Families, and there you shall see little but the World minded; or if they have a Road of Family Duties, follow them to their Closets, and there you shall find their Souls are little looked after. It may be they seem otherwise Religious, but bridle not their Tongues, and so all their Religion is in vain, *Jam. 1. 26.* It may be they come up to Closet and Family Prayer; but follow them to their Shops, and there you shall find them in a Trade of Lying, or some covert and cleanly way of deceit. Thus the Hypocrite goes not thorowout in the course of his Obedience.

And thus much for the subject of Conversion.

6. 'The Terms are either from which, or to which.

1. *The Terms from which we turn in this motion of Conversion, are Sin, Satan, the World, and our own Righteousness.*

First, *Sin.* When a Man is converted, he is for ever out with Sin, yea with all Sin, *Psal. 119. 128.* but most of all with his own Sins, and especially with his Bosom Sin, *Psal. 18. 23.* Sin is now the Butt of his indignation, *2 Cor. 7. 11.* he thirsts to bathe his hands in the blood of his Sins. His Sins set abroad his Sorrows. It is Sin that pierces him and wounds him, he feels it like a Thorn in his side, like a prick in his Eyes, he groans and struggles under it, and not formally, but feelingly cries out, *O wretched Man!*

He

He is not impatient of any burden so much as of his Sin, *Psal.* 40. 12. If God should give him his choice, he would choose any Affliction, so he might be rid of Sin. He feels it like the cutting gravel in his Shooes, pricking and paining him as he goes.

Before Conversion he had light thoughts of Sin: He cherished it in his Bosom, as *Uriah* his Lamb; he nourished it up, and it grew up together with him; it did eat as it were of his own Meat, and drank of his own Cup, and lay in his Bosom, and was to him as a Daughter: But when God opens his Eyes by Conversion, he throws it away with abhorrence, *Isa.* 30. 22. as a Man would a loathsome Toad, which in the dark he had hugged fast in his Bosom, and thought it had been some pretty and harmless Bird. When a Man is savingly changed, he is not only deeply convinced of the danger, but defilement of Sin: And O how earnest is he with God to be purified? He loathes himself for his Sins, *Ezek.* 36. 31. He runs to Christ, and casts himself into the Fountain for Sin and for Uncleanness, *Zech.* 13. 1. If he fall, what a stir is there to get all clean again? He flies to the Word, and washes, and rubs, and rinches, labouring to cleanse himself from all filthiness both of Flesh and Spirit: He abhors his once beloved Sin, *Psal.* 18. 23. as a cleanly nature doth the Trough and Mire, wherein he sees the Swine delight.

The sound Convert is heartily engaged against Sin. He wrestles with it, he Wars against it. He is too often foiled, but he never yields the Cause, nor lays down the Weapons; but he will up and to it again, while he hath breath in his Body. He will never give quiet Possession, he will make no Peace; he will give no Quarter, he falls upon it, and fires upon it, and is still disquieting of it with continual Alarms. He can forgive his other Enemies, he can pity them, and pray for them, *Acts* 7. 60. but here he is implacable, here is he set upon Revenge: He hunteth, as it were for the precious Life; his Eye shall not pity, his Hand shall

shall not spare, though it be a right Hand or a right Eye. Be it a gainful Sin, most delightful to his Nature, or support to his Esteem with carnal Friends, yet he will rather throw his Gain down the Kennel, see his Credit fail, or the Flower of Pleasure wither in his hand, than he will allow himself in any known way of Sin, *Luke 19. 8.* He will grant no indulgence, he will give no toleration, but he draws upon Sin wherever he meets it, and frowns upon it with this unwelcome salute, *Have I found thee, O mine Enemy!*

Reader, hath Conscience been at work, while thou hast been looking over these Lines? Hast thou pondered these things in thine Heart? Hast thou searched the Book within, to see if these things be so? If not, read it again, and make thy Conscience speak, whether or no it be thus with thee.

Hast thou crucified thy Flesh with its Affections and Lusts; and not only confessed, but forsaken thy Sins; all Sin in thy fervent desires, and the ordinary practice of every deliberate and wilful Sin in thy Life? If not, thou art yet unconverted. Doth not Conscience fly in thy Face, as thou reade'st, and tell thee, that thou livest in a way of lving for thy Advantage, that thou use'st deceit in thy Calling, that there is some way of secret wantonness that thou livest in? Why then, do not deceive thy self, thou art in the Gall of Bitterness, and Bond of Iniquity.

Doth not thy unbridled Tongue, thy brutish Intemperance, thy wicked Company, thy neglect of Prayer, of hearing and reading the Word, now witness against thee, and say, *We are thy Works, and we will follow thee?* Or if I have not hit thee right, doth not the Bird within tell thee, there is such or such a way, that thou knowest to be evil, that yet for some carnal respect thou dost tolerate thy self in, and art willing to spare? If this be thy Case, thou art to this day unregenerate, and must be changed or condemned.

Secondly,

Secondly, *Satan*. Conversion binds the strong Man, spoils his Armour, casts out his Goods, turns Men from the Power of Satan unto God, *Acts* 26. 18. Before, the Devil could no sooner hold up his Finger to the Sinner, to call him to his wicked Company, sinful Games, filthy Delights, but presently he followed, like an Ox to the Slaughter, and a Fool to the correction of the Stocks, as the Bird that hasteth to the Prey, and knoweth not that it is for his Life. No sooner could Satan bid him lie, but presently he had it upon the tip of his Tongue, *Acts* 5. 3. no sooner could Satan offer a wanton Object, but he was stung with Lust. The Devil could do more with him than God could. If the Devil say, Away with these Family Duties, be sure they shall be rarely enough performed in his House. If the Devil say, Away with this strictness, this preciseness, he will keep far enough from it: If he tells him there's no need of these Closet Duties, he shall go from day to day, and scarce perform them. But now he is converted, he serves another Master, and takes quite another Course, *1 Pet.* 4. 4. he goes and comes at Christ's beck, *Col.* 3. 24. Satan may sometimes catch his foot in a Trap; but he will no longer be a willing Captive. He watches against the Snares and Baits of Satan, and studies to be acquainted with his devices. He is very suspicious of his Plots, and is very jealous in what comes athwart him, lest Satan should have some design upon him. He wrestles against Principalities and Powers, *Eph.* 6. He entertains the Messenger of Satan as Men do the Messenger of Death. He keeps his Eye upon his Enemy, *1 Pet.* 5. 8. and watches in his Duties, lest Satan should put in his Foot.

3dly, *The World*. Before he has found Faith, a Man is overcome of the *World*. Either he bows down to *Mammon*, or idolizes his Reputation, or is a lover of pleasure more than a lover of God, *2 Tim.* 3. 4. Here's the root of Mans Misery by the Fall: He is turned aside to the Creature instead of God, and gives that

Esteem, Confidence, and Affection to the Creature, that is due to him alone, *Rom.* 1. 25. *Mat.* 10. 37. *Prov.* 18. 11. *Jer.* 17. 5.

O miserable Man! What a deformed Monster hath Sin made thee? God made thee little lower than the Angels; Sin little better than the Devils, *John* 6. 70. and 8. 44. a Monster that hath his Head and Heart where his Feet should be, and his Feet kicking against Heaven, and every thing out of place; the World, that was formed to serve thee, is come to rule thee; and the deceitful Harlot hath bewitched thee with her Enchantments, and made thee bow down and serve her.

But converting Grace sets all in order again, and puts God in the Throne, and the World at his Footstool, *Psal.* 73. 25. Christ in the heart, and the World under Feet, *Eph.* 3. 17. *Rev.* 12. 1. So Paul, *I am crucified to the World, and the World to me*, *Gal.* 6. 14. Before this change, all the cry was, *Who will shew us any (worldly) good?* but now he sings another Tune, *Lord lift thou up the light of thy Countenance upon me*, and take the Corn and Wine whoso will; *Psal.* 4. 6, 7. Before his Hearts delight and content was in the World; then the Song was, *Soul take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry, thou hast much Goods laid up for many Years*; but now all this is withered, and there is no comeliness that he should desire it, and he tunes up with the sweet Psalmist of Israel, *the Lord is the portion of mine inheritance; the Lines are fallen to me in a fair place, and I have a goodly heritage*. He blesses himself, and boasts himself in God, *Psal.* 34. 2. *Lam.* 3. 24. nothing else can give him content. He hath written Vanity and Vexation upon all his worldly Enjoyments, *Eccles.* 1. 2. and lofs and dung upon all Humane Excellencies, *Phil.* 3. 7, 8. He hath Life and Immortality now in chase, *Rom.* 2. 7. he Trades for Grace and Glory, and hath a Crown incorruptible in pursuit, *1 Cor.* 9. 25. His Heart is set in him to seek the Lord, *1 Chron.* 22. 19. and *2 Chron.* 15. 15. He first seeks
the

the Kingdom of Heaven and the Righteousness thereof, and Religion is no longer a matter by the by with him, but the main of his care, *Mat. 6. 33. Psal 27. 4.* Now the gawdy Idol is become *Nebush:an*, *2 King. 18. 4.* and he gets up and treads upon it, as *Diogenes* trampling on *Plato's* hangings, saying, *Calco Platonis fastum.* Before the World had the swaying interest with him; he would do more for gain than godliness, *1 Tim. 6. 5.* more to pleasure his Friend, or his Flesh, than to please the God that made him, and God must stand by till the World were first served; but now all must stand by; he hates Father, and Mother, and Life, and all in comparison of Christ, *Luke 14. 26.*

Well then, pause a little, and look within: Doth not this nearly concern thee? Thou pretendest for Christ; but doth not the World sway thee? Dost thou not take more real delight and content in the World, than in him? Dost not thou find thy self better at ease when the World goes to thy mind, and thou art compassed with carnal Delights, than when retired to Prayer and Meditation in thy Closet, or attending upon God's Word and Worship? No surer Evidence of an unconverted State, than to have the things of the World uppermost in our aims, love, and estimation, *John 2. 15. James 4. 4.*

With the sound convert Christ hath the supremacy. How dear is this name to him? How precious is its favour, *Cant. 1. 3. Psal. 45. 8.* The name of Jesus is engraven upon his Heart, *Gal. 4. 19.* and lies as a bundle of Myrrh between his Breasts, *Cant. 1. 13, 14.* Honour is but air, and laughter is but madness, and *Mammon* is fallen like *Dagon* before the Ark, with Hands and Head broken off on the threshold, when once Christ is savingly revealed. Here is the Pearl of great Price to the true Convert; here is his Treasure, here is his Hope, *Mat. 13. 44, 45.* This is his Glory, my beloved is mine, and I am his, *Gal. 6. 14. Cant. 2. 16.* O 'tis sweeter to him to be able to say, Christ

is mine, than if he could say, the Kingdom is mine, the *Indies* are mine.

Fourthly, *Your own Righteousness*: Before Conversion, Man seeks to cover himself with his own Fig-leaves, *Phil.* 3. 6, 7. and to lick himself whole with his own Duties, *Mic.* 6. 6, 7. He is apt to trust in himself, *Luk.* 16. 15. and 18. 9. and set up his own Righteousness, and to reckon his Counters for Gold, and not submit to the Righteousness of God, *Rom.* 10. 3. But Conversion changes his mind; now he casts away his filthy Rags, and counts his own Righteousness, but a menstrous Cloth: He casts it off, as a Man would the verminous Tatters of a nasty Beggar, *Isa.* 64. 6. Now he is brought to poverty of Spirit, *Mat.* 5. 3. complains of, and condemns himself, *Rom.* 7. 24. and all his Inventory is, *Poor, and miserable, and wretched, and blind, and naked, Rev.* 3. 17. he sees a World of iniquity in his holy things, & calls his once-idolized Righteousness, but Flesh, and Loss, and Dogs-meat, and would not for a thousand Worlds be found in himself, *Phil.* 3. 4, 7, 8, 9. His Finger is ever upon his sores, *Psal.* 51. 3. his Sins, his Wants. Now he begins to set a high price upon Christ's Righteousness; he sees the need of a Christ in every Duty, to justify his Person, and justify his Performances, he cannot live without him; he cannot pray without him; Christ must go with him, or else he cannot come into the presence of God; he leans upon the hand of Christ, and so he bows himself in the house of his God. He sets himself down for a lost, undone Man without him. His Life is hid in Christ, as the life of Man in the Heart. He is fixed in Christ, as the roots of the Tree spread in the Earth for stability and nutriment. Before, the news of a Christ was a stale and sapless thing; but now how sweet is a Christ? *Augustine* could not relish his before so much admired *Cicero*, because he could not find the name of Christ; how pathetically cries he, *Dulcissime, amantissime, benignissime, carissime, &c. quando te videbo? quando satiabor de pulchritudine*

chritudine tua? Medit. c. 37. O most sweet, most loving, most kind, most dear, most precious, most desired, most lovely, most fair, &c. all in a breath, when he speaks of and to his Christ; in a word, the voice of the Convert, is with the Martyr, None but Christ.

2. *The terms to which, are either Ultimate, or Subordinate and Mediate.*

The *Ultimate*, is God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, whom the true Convert takes, as his All-sufficient and eternal blessedness. A Man is never truly sanctified, till his very Heart be in truth set upon God above all things, as his portion and chief good. These are the natural breathings of a Believers Heart: *Thou art my portion, Psal. 119. 57. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord, Psal. 34. 2. My expectation is from him, he only is my rock, and my salvation, he is my defence: in God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength, and my Refuge is in God, Psal. 62. 1, 2, 5, 6, 7. Psal. 18. 1, 2.*

Would you put it to an issue, whether you be converted or not? Now then let thy Soul and all that is within the attend.

Hast thou taken God for thy Happiness? Where doth the content of thy Heart lie? Whence doth thy choicest comfort come in? Come then and with *Abraham* lift up thine Eyes Eastward, and Westward, and Northward, and Southward, and cast about thee, what it is, that thou wouldst have in Heaven or Earth to make thee happy. If God should give thee thy choice as he did to *Solomon*, or should say to thee as *Abashuerus* to *Esther*, *What is thy petition, and what is thy request?* and it shall be granted thee, *Esther. 5. 3.* What wouldst thou ask? Go into the Gardens of Pleasure, and gather all the fragrant Flowers from thence; would these content thee? Go to the Treasurers of *Mammon*; suppose thou might'st lade thy self while thou wouldst from hence: Go to the Towers, to the Trophies of Honor: What thinkest thou of being a Man of renown, and having a name like the

name of the great Men of the Earth? Would any of this, all this suffice thee, and make thee count thy self a happy Man? If so, then certainly thou art carnal and unconverted. If not, go farther; wade into the Divine Excellencies, the store of his Mercies, the hiding of his Power, the deeps unfathomable of his All-sufficiency: Doth this suit thee best, and please thee most? Dost thou say, *'Tis good to be here?* Mat. 17. 4. *Here I will pitch, here will I live and die?* Wilt thou let all the World go, rather than this? Then 'tis well between God and thee: Happy art thou, O Man, happy art thou that ever thou wast born. If a God can make thee happy, thou must needs be happy; for thou hast avouched the Lord to be thy God, Deut. 26. 17. Dost thou say to Christ, as he to us, *Thy Father shall be my Father, and thy God my God,* John 20. 17. Here is the turning Point. An unsound professor never takes up his rest in God; but converting Grace does the work, and so cures the fatal misery of the fall, by turning the Heart from its Idols, to the living God, 1 Thes. 1. 9. Now says the Soul, *Lord, whither should I go? Thou hast the words of eternal life,* John 6. 68. Here he centers, here he settles. O 'tis as the entrance of Heaven to him, to see his interest in God. When he discovers this, he saith, *Return unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee,* Psalm. 116. 7. and it is even ready to breathe out *Simons Song,* *Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,* Luke 2. 29. and saith with *Jacob,* when his old heart revived at the welcome tidings, *it is enough,* Gen. 45. 28. When he sees he hath a God in Covenant to go to, *this is all his salvation, and all his desire,* 2 Sam. 23. 5.

Man, Is this thy case? Hast thou experienced this? Why then, blessed art thou of the Lord. God hath been at work with thee, he hath laid hold on thy Heart by the power of converting Grace, or else thou couldst never have done this.

The *Mediate* term of Conversion is either *Principal*, or *less Principal*.

The *Principal*, is Christ, the only Mediator between God and Man, 1 *Tim.* 2. 5. His work is to bring us to God, 1 *Pet.* 3. 18. he is the way to the Father, *John* 14. 6. the only plank on which we may escape, the only door by which we may enter, *John* 10. 9. Conversion brings over the Soul to Christ, to accept of him, *Col.* 2. 6. as the only means to Life, as the only way, the only name given under Heaven, *Acts* 4. 12. He looks not for Salvation in any other but him; nor in any other with him, but throws himself on Christ alone, as one that should cast himself with spread arms upon the Sea.

Here (saith the convinced Sinner) here I will venture, and if I perish, I perish: If I die, I will die here. But Lord, suffer me not to perish under the pitiful eyes of thy mercy. Intreat me not to leave thee, or to turn away from following after thee, Ruth. 1. 16. Here I will throw myself; If thou kick me, if thou kill me, Job 13. 15. I will not go from thy door.

Thus the poor Soul doth venture on Christ, and resolvedly adhere to him. Before Conversion, the Man made light of Christ, minded the Farm, Friends, Merchandise, more than Christ, *Matth.* 22. 5. Now Christ is to him as his Necessary Food, his daily bread, the life of his Heart, the staff of his Life, *Phil.* 3. 9. His great design is, that *Christ may be magnified in him, Phil. 1. 20.* His Heart once said, as they to the Spouse, *What is thy Beloved more than another? Cant. 5. 9.* He found more sweetness in his merry Company, wicked Games, earthly Delights, than in Christ. He took Religion for a Fancy, and the talk of great enjoyments for an idle Dream. But now to him *to live is Christ, Phil. 1. 21.* He sets light by all that he accounted precious, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ, *Phil. 3. 8.*

All of Christ is accepted by the sincere Convert. He loves not only the wages, but work of Christ, *Rom. 7. 12.* not only the Benefits, but the *burden of Christ*: He is willing not only to tread out the Corn, but to draw under the Yoke: he takes up the Commands of Christ, yea and Cross of Christ, *Mat. 11. 29. Mat. 16. 24.*

The unsound Professor closes by the halves with Christ; he is all for the Salvation of Christ, but he is not for Sanctification: He is for the Priviledges, but appreciates not the Person of Christ. He divides the Offices and Benefits of Christ. This is an error in the Foundation. Whoso loveth Life, let him beware here. 'Tis an undoing mistake, of which you have been often warned, and yet none more common. Jesus is a sweet name, but Men love not *the Lord Jesus in sincerity*, *Eph. 6. 24.* They will not have him as God offers, *To be a Prince and a Saviour*, *Acts 5. 31.* They divide what God hath joined, the King and the Priest. Yea, they will not accept the Salvation of Christ, as he intends it; they divide it here. Every M n's Vote is for Salvation from suffering, but they desire not to be saved from sinning. They would have their lives saved, but withal they would have their Lusts. Yea, many divide here again, they would be content to have some of their Sins destroyed; but they cannot leave the lap of *Dalilah*, or divorce the beloved *Herodias*. They cannot be cruel to the right Eye, or right Hand; the Lord must pardon them in this thing, *2 King. 5. 18.* O be infinitely tender here; your souls lie upon it. The sound Convert takes a whole Christ, and takes him for all intents and purposes, without exceptions, without limitations, without reserves. He is willing to have Christ, upon his terms, upon any terms. He is willing of the dominion of Christ, as well as deliverance by Christ; he saith with *Paul, Lord, What wilt thou have me to do?* *Acts 9. 6.* Any thing Lord. He sends the blank to Christ to fill down his own conditions, *Acts 2. 37. Acts. 16. 30.*

The

The *less Principal* is the *Laws, Ordinances, and Ways of Christ*. The Heart that was once set against these, and could not endure the strictness of these bonds, the severity of these ways, now falls in love with them, and chuses them as its rule and guide for ever, *Psal. 119. 111, 12.*

Four things (I observe) God doth work in every sound Convert, with reference to the *Laws and Ways of Christ*, by which you may come to know your Estates, if you will be faithful to your own Souls; and therefore keep your Eyes upon your Hearts, as you go along

1. *The Judgment is brought to approve of them, and subscribe to them, as most righteous and most reasonable, Psal. 119. 112, 128, 137, 138.* The mind is brought to like the ways of God, and the corrupt prejudices, that were once against them, as unreasonable, and intolerable, are now removed. The understanding assents to them all, as holy, just, and good, *Rom. 7. 12.* How is *David* taken up with these excellencies of God's Laws? How doth he expatiate in their praises both from their inherent qualities, and admirable effects, *Psal. 19. 8, 9, 10, &c.*

There is a twofold judgment of the understanding; *Judicium absolutum, & comparatum.* The absolute judgment is, when a Man thinks such a course best in the general, but not for him, or not under the present circumstances he is in, *pro hic & nunc.* Now a godly Man's Judgment is for the ways of God, and that not only his absolute, but comparative judgment; he thinks them not only best in general, but best for him. He looks upon the rules of Religion, not only as tolerable, but desirable, yea more desirable than Gold, fine Gold, yea much fine Gold, *Psal. 19. 10.*

His Judgment is settledly determined, that 'tis best to be holy, that 'tis best to be strict, that it is in itself the most eligible course; and that 'tis for him the wisest and most rational, and desirable choice. Hear the godly Man's judgment, *I know, O Lord, that thy judg-*

judgments are right. I love thy Commandments above Gold, yea above fine Gold; I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right, and I hate every false way, Psal. 119. 127, 128. Mark, he did approve of all that God required, and disallowed of all that he forbad; Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments. Thy Testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous, and very faithful, ver. 137, 138. Thy Word is true from the beginning, and every one of thy righteous Judgments endureth for ever, Psal. 119, 86, 160, 162, 163. See how readily and fully he subscribes; he declares his assent, and consent to it, and all and every thing therein contained.

2. The desire of the heart is to know the whole mind of Christ, Psal. 119. 124, 125, 169. Psal. 25. 4, 5. He would not have one sin undiscovered, nor be ignorant of one Duty required. 'Tis the natural and earnest breathing of a sanctified Heart, Lord, if there be any way of wickedness in me, do thou discover it. What I know not, teach thou me, and if I have done iniquity, I will do it no more, Psal. 139. 24. Job 34. 32. The unsound is willingly ignorant, 2 Pet. 3. 5. loves not to come to the light, John 3. 20. He is willing to keep such or such a Sin; and therefore is loth to know it to be a Sin, and will not let in the light at that Window. Now the gracious Heart is willing to know the whole latitude and compass of his Makers Law, Psal. 119. 18, 19, 27, 33, 64, 66, 68, 73, 108, 124. He receives with all acceptance the Word that convinceth him of any Duty that he knew not, or minded not before, or discovered any Sin that lay hid before, Psalm. 119.

II.

3. The free and resolved choice of the Will is determined for the ways of Christ, before all the pleasures of sin and prosperities of the world, Psal. 119. 103, 127, 162. His consent is not extorted by some extremity of anguish, nor is it only a sudden and hasty resolve, but he is deliberately purposed, and comes off freely in the choice, Psal. 17. 3. Psal. 119. 30. True, the Flesh will

will rebel, yet the prevailing part of his Will is for Christ's Laws and Government; so that he takes them not up as his toil or burden, but his bliss, 1 *Joh.* 5. 3. *Psal.* 119. 60, 72. When the un sanctified goes in Christ's ways, as in Chains and Fetters, he doth them naturally, *Psal.* 40. 8. *Jer.* 31. 33. and counts Christ's Law his Liberty, *Psal.* 119, 32, 45. *Jam.* 1. 25. He is willing in the beauties of holiness, *Psal.* 110. 3. and hath this inseparable Mark: ' That he had rather (if he might have his choice) live a strict and ' holy Life, than the most prosperous and flourishing ' Life in the World, 1 *Sam.* 10. 26. There went with *Saul* a band of Men whose hearts God had touched. When God touches the hearts of his chosen, they presently follow Christ, *Mat.* 4. 22. and (tho' drawn) do freely run after him, *Cant.* 1. 4. and willingly offer themselves to the service of the Lord, 2 *Chron.* 7. 16. seeking him with their whole desire, 2 *Chron.* 15. 15. Fear hath its use; but this is not the main Spring of Motion with a sanctified Heart. Christ keeps not his Subjects in by force, but is King of a willing People. They are (through his Grace) freely resolved for his service, and do it out of choice, not as Slaves, but as the Son or Spouse, from a Spring of Love, and a Loyal Mind. In a word, the Laws of Christ are the Convert's Love, *Psal.* 119. 159, 163, 167. desire, ver. 5. 20, 40. delight, ver. 77, 92, 103, 111, 143. and continual study, ver. 99, 79. *Psal.* 1. 2.

4. The bent of his course is directed to keep God's Statutes, *Psal.* 119. 4, 8, 167, 168. 'Tis the daily care of his life to walk with God. He seeks great things: He hath noble designs, though he fall too short. He aims at nothing less than perfection: He desires it, he reaches after it, he would not rest in any pitch of Grace, till he were quite rid of sin, and had perfected holiness, *Phil.* 3. 11, 12, 13, 14.

Here the Hypocrites rottenness may be discovered. ' He desires holiness (as one well saith) only as a Bridge ' to Heaven, and enquires earnestly, what is the least ' that will serve his turn; and if he can get *but* so much as may just bring him to Heaven, this is all he cares for. But the sound Convert desires holiness for holiness sake, *Psalms*. 119. 97. *Mat.* 5. 6. and not only for Heaven's sake. He would not be satisfied with so much as might save him from Hell; but desires the highest pitch. Yet desires are not enough. What is thy way and thy course? Is the drift and scope of thy Life altered? Is Holiness thy Trade, and Religion thy Business? *Rom.* 8. 1. *Mat.* 25. 16. *Phil.* 3. 20. If not, thou art short of sound Conversion.

Application. And is this, that we have described, the Conversion that is of absolute Necessity to Salvation? Then be informed, 1. That strait is the Gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto Life. 2. That there be but few that find it. 3. That there is need of a Divine Power, savingly to convert a Sinner to Jesus Christ.

Again then, be exhorted, O Man, that readest, to turn in upon thine own self. What saith Conscience? Doth it not begin to bite? Doth it not *twit* thee as thou goest? Is this thy Judgment, and this thy Choice, and this thy way, that we have described? If so, then 'tis well. But doth not thy heart condemn thee, and tell thee, there is such a sin thou livest in against thy Conscience? Doth it not tell thee, there is such and such a secret way of wickedness, that thou makest no bones of? Such or such a Duty that thou makest no Conscience of?

Doth not Conscience carry thee to thy Closet, and tell thee how seldom prayer, and reading is performed there? Doth it not carry thee to thy Family, and shew thee the charge of God, and the Souls of thy Children and Servants, that be neglected there? Doth not Conscience lead thee to thy Shop, thy Trade, and tell thee of some mystery of iniquity there? Doth it

not

not carry thee to the Ale-Shop, or to the Sack-Shop, and round thee in thine Ear for the loose Company thou keepest there, the precious time thou mis-spendest there, for the talents of God, which thou throwest down this Sink, for thy gaming, and thy swilling, &c. Doth it not carry thee into thy secret Chamber, and read thee a Curtain Lecture?

O Conscience, do thy Duty. In the name of the living God, I command thee discharge thine Office. Lay hold upon this Sinner, fall upon him, arrest him, apprehend him, undeceive him. What, wilt thou flatter and sooth him, while he lives in his Sins? Awake, O Conscience. What meanest thou, O sleeper? What, hast thou never a reproof in thy Mouth? What, shall this soul die in his careless neglect of God and Eternity, and thou altogether hold thy peace? What, shall he go on still in his trespasses, and yet have peace? O rouse up thy self, and do thy work. Now let the Preacher in the bosom speak. Cry aloud and spare not, lift up thy Voice like a Trumpet; let not the blood of this Soul be required at thy hands.

CHAP. III.

Of the Necessity of Conversion.

IT may be you are ready to say, What meaneth this stir? And are apt to wonder, why I follow you with such earnestness, still ringing one lesson in your Ears, *That you should repent and be converted, Acts 3. 19.* But I must say unto you, as *Ruth* to *Naomi*, *Intreat me not to leave you, nor to turn aside from following after you, Ruth 1. 16.* Were it a matter of indifference, I would never keep so much ado. Might you be saved as you be, I would gladly let you alone. But would you not have me solicitous for you, when I see you ready to perish? As the Lord liveth, before whom I am, I have not the least hopes to see one of your faces in Heaven, except you be converted. I
utterly

utterly despair of your Salvation, *except* you will be prevailed with to turn throughly, and give up your selves to God in holiness and newness of Life. Hath God said, *Except you be born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God*, John 3. 3. and yet do you wonder, why your Ministers do so plainly travel in birth with you? Think it not strange that I am earnest with you to follow after holiness, and long to see the Image of God upon you. Never did any, nor shall any enter into Heaven by any other way but this. The Conversion described is not an high pitch of some taller Christians, but every Soul, that is saved, passes this universal change.

It was a passage of the Noble *Roman*, when he was hasting with Corn to the City in the Famine, and the Mariners were loth to set sail in foul Weather, *Necessarium est navigare, non est necessarium vivere*. Our Voyage is of more Necessity than our lives. What is it that thou doest account Necessary? Is thy Bread Necessary? Is thy Breath Necessary? Then thy Conversion is much more Necessary. Indeed this is the *Unum necessarium*, the one thing Necessary. Thine Estate is not Necessary; thou mayst sell all for the Pearl of great price, and yet be a gainer by the purchase, *Mat.* 13. 46. Thy Life is not Necessary; thou maist part with it for Christ to infinite Advantage. Thine esteem is not Necessary; thou maist be reproached for the name of Christ, and yet happy, yea much more happy in reproach than in repute, *1 Pet.* 4. 4. *Mat.* 5. 10, 11. But thy Conversion is Necessary, thy damnation lies upon it and is it not needful in so important a Case to look about thee? Upon this one point depends thy making, or marring, to all eternity.

But I shall more particularly shew the Necessity of Conversion in five things; for without this,

1. *Thy Being is in vain*. Is it not pity thou shouldst be good for nothing, an unprofitable burden of the Earth, a Wart, or Wen in the Body of the Universe?

Thus

Thus thou art, whilst unconverted, for thou canst not answer the end of thy Being. Is it not for the Divine Pleasure thou art and wert created? *Rev.* 4. 11. Did not he make thee for himself? *Prov.* 16. 4. Art thou a Man, and hast thou Reason? Why then bethink thy self, why and whence thy Being is. Behold God's Workmanship in thy Body, and ask thy self, to what end did God rear this Fabrick? Consider the noble Faculties of thy Heaven-born Soul: To what end did God bestow these Excellencies? To no other, then that thou shouldst please thy self, and gratifie thy Senses? Did God send Men, like the Swallows, into the World, only to gather a few Sticks and Dirt, and build their Nests, and breed up their young, and then away? The very Heathens could see farther than this. Art thou so fearfully and wonderfully made, *Psal.* 139. 14. and dost thou not yet think with thy self, surely it was for some noble and raised end?

O Man, set thy Reason a little in their Chair. Is it not pity such a goodly Fabrick should be raised in vain? Verily thou art in vain, except thou art for God. Better thou hadst no Being, than not be for him. Wouldst thou serve thy end? Thou must repent, and be converted. Without this thou art *to no purpose*, yea to *bad purpose*.

First, *To no purpose*. Man unconverted is like a choice instrument, that hath every string broke, or out of tune. The Spirit of the living God must repair, and tune it, by the grace of Regeneration, and sweetly move it by the power of actuating Grace, or else thy Prayers will be but howlings, and all thy Services will make no Musick in the Ears of the most Holy, *Eph.* 2. 10. *Phil.* 2. 13. *Hos.* 7. 14. *Isa.* 1. 15. All thy Powers and Faculties are so corrupt in thy natural State, that except thou be purged from dead works, thou canst not serve the living God, *Heb.* 9. 14. *Tit.* 1. 15.

An un sanctified Man cannot work the work of God.
 1. *He hath no skill in it.* He is altogether as unskilful in the work, as in the word of Righteousness, *Heb. 5. 14.* There are great Mysteries as well in the practices, as principles of Godliness: Now the unregenerate knoweth not the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, *Mat. 13. 11. 1 Tim. 3. 16.* You may as well expect him that never learn'd the Alphabet to read, or look for goodly Musick on the Lute, from one that never set his hand to an Instrument, as that a natural Man should do the Lord any pleasing Service. He must first be taught of God, *John 6. 45. taught to pray, Luke 11. 1. taught to profit, Isa. 48. 17. taught to go, Hos. 11. 3.* or else he will be utterly at a loss.] 2. *He hath no strength for it.* How weak is his heart? *Ezek. 16. 30.* He is presently tired. The Sabbath what a weariness is it? *Mal. 1. 13.* He is without strength, *Rom. 5. 6.* yea stark dead in Sin, *Eph. 2. 5.*] 3. *He hath no mind to it;* he desires not the knowledge of God's ways, *Job 21. 14.* He doth not know them, and he doth not care to know them, *Psal 82. 5.* He knows not, neither, will he understand.] 4. *He hath neither due Instruments, nor Materials for it.* A Man may as well hew the Marble without Tools, or Limn without Colours, or Instruments, or build without Materials, as perform any acceptable services without the graces of the Spirit, which are both the Materials and Instruments in the work. Alms-giving is not a service of God, but of vain Glory, unless dealt forth by the hand of Divine Love. What is the prayer of the Lips without Grace in the Heart, but the Carcass without the Life? What are all our confessions, unless they be the exercises of godly Sorrow and unfeigned Repentance? What our petitions, unless animated all along with holy desires, and faith in divine attributes and promises? What our praises and thanksgivings, unless from the Love of God, and a holy gratitude, and sense of God's Mercies in the Heart? So that a Man may as well expect the Trees should speak, or look for Logick from the Brutes,

of motion from the Dead, as for any service holy and acceptable to God, from the unconverted. When the Tree is evil, how can the fruit be good? *Matth.* 7. 18.

Secondly, To *Bad purpose*: The unconverted Soul is a very Cage of unclean Birds, *Rev.* 18. 2. a Sepulchre full of Corruption and Rottenness, *Mat.* 23. 27. a loathsome Carcass full of crawling Worms, and sending forth a hellish and most noisome Savour in the Nostrils of God, *Psal.* 14. 3. O dreadful case! Dost thou not yet see a change to be needful? Would it not have grieved one to have seen the golden consecrated Vessels of God's Temple turned into quaffing Bowls for drunkenness, and polluted with the Idols service? *Dan.* 5. 2, 3. Was it such an abomination to the *Jews*, when *Antiochus* set up the Picture of a Swine at the entrance of the Temple? How much more abominable then would it have been to have had the very Temple it self turned into a Stable, or a Stye, and to have the Holy of Holies served like the House of *Baal*; to have the Image of God taken down, and be turned into a draught-house? *2 Kings* 10. 27. This is the very case of the unregenerate; all thy Members are turned into *Instruments of unrighteousness*, *Rom.* 6. 19. Servants of Satan; and thy inmost powers into receptacles of uncleanness, *Eph.* 2. 2. *Tit.* 1. 15. You may see the goodly guests, within, by what comes out. *For out of the heart proceed evil Thoughts, Murders, Adulteries, Fornications, Thefts, False-Witness, Blasphemies, &c.* This black Guard discovers what a Hell there is within.

O abuse unsufferable! to see a Heaven-born Soul abased to the filthiest drudgery, to see the glory of God's Creation, the chief of the ways of God, the Lord of the Universe, a-lapping with the prodigal at the Trough, or licking up with greediness the most loathsome Vomit. Was it such a Lamentation, to see those that did feed delicately, to sit desolate in the Streets? And the precious Sons of *Sion*, comparable to fine Gold,

to be esteemed as earthen Pitchers; and those that were cloathed in Scarlet, to embrace Dunghills? *Lam. 4. 2, 5.* And is it not much more fearful, to see the only thing that hath immortality in this lower World, and carries the stamp of God, to become as *a vessel wherein there is no pleasure, Jer. 22. 28.* (which is but the modest Expression of the Vessel, Men put to the most fordid Use.) O indignity intolerable! Better thou wert dashed in a *thousand* pieces, than continue to be abused to so filthy a service.

II. *Not only Man, but the whole visible creation is in vain without this.* Beloved, God hath made all the visible Creatures in Heaven and Earth for the service of Man, and Man only is the Spokesman for all the rest. Man is in the Universe, like the Tongue in the Body, which speaks for all the Members. The other Creatures cannot praise their Maker, but by dumb Signs and hints to Man, that he should speak for them. Man is, as it were, the high Priest of God's Creation, to offer the Sacrifice of Praise for all his fellow Creatures, *Psal. 147. and 148. and 150.* The Lord God expecteth a tribute of praise from all his works, *Psal. 103. 22.* Now all the rest do bring in their tribute to Man, and pay it in by his hand. So then, if Man be false, and faithless, and selfish, God is wronged of all, and shall have no active Glory from his Works.

O dreadful thought to think of; That God should build such a World as this, and lay out such infinite Power, and Wisdom, and goodness thereupon, and all in vain; and Man should be guilty at last, of robbing, and spoiling him of the Glory of all. O think of this; while thou art unconverted, all the Officers of the Creatures to thee are in vain; thy Meat nourishes thee in vain; the Sun holds forth his light to thee in vain; the Stars that serve thee in their courses by their most powerful, though hidden influence, *Judges 5. 20. Hos. 2. 21, 22.* do it in vain; thy clothes warm thee in vain; thy Beast carries thee in vain: In a word, the unwearied labour, and continual

tinual travel of the whole Creation (as to thee) is in vain. The service of all the Creatures, that drudge for thee, and yield forth their strength unto thee, (that therewith thou shouldst serve their Maker) is all but lost labour. Hence the whole Creation groaneth under the abuse of this un sanctified World, *Rom. 8. 22.* that pervert them to the service of their Lusts, quite contrary to the end of their Being.

III. *Without this, thy Religion is in vain, Jam. 1. 26.* All thy religious performances will be but lost; for they can neither please God, *Rom. 8. 8.* nor save thy soul, *1 Cor. 13. 2, 3.* Which are the very ends of Religion. Be thy services never so specious, yet God hath no pleasure in them, *Isa. 1. 14. Mal. 1. 10.* Is not that Man's case dreadful, whose sacrifices are as Murder, and whose prayers are a breath of Abomination? *Isa. 66. 3. Prov. 28. 9.* Many under convictions think they will set upon mending, and that a few Prayers and Alms will salve all again; but alas, sirs, while your Hearts remain un sanctified, your Duties will not pass. How punctual was *Jehu*? And yet all was rejected, because his heart was not upright, *2 Kings 10. with Hos. 1. 4.* How blameless was *Paul*? and yet being unconverted all was but loss, *Phil. 2. 6, 7.* Men think they do much in attending God's Service, and are ready to twit him with it, *Isa. 58. 3. Mat. 7. 22.* and set him down so much their debtor, when as (their Persons being un sanctified) their duties cannot be accepted.

O Soul, do not think, when thy Sins pursue thee, a little praying and reforming thy course will pacifie God: Thou must begin with thine Heart. If that be not renewed, thou canst no more please God, than one that having unspeakably offended thee, should bring thee his vomit in a dish to pacifie thee, or having fallen into the Mire, should think with his loathed embraces to reconcile thee.

It is a great misery to labour in the Fire. The Poets could not invent a worser Hell for *Sisyphus* than to be getting the Barrel still up the Hill, and then that it should presently fall down again and renew his Labour. God threatens it, as the greatest of temporal Judgments, that they should build and not inhabit, plant and not gather, and their labours should be eat up by Strangers, *Deut.* 28. 30, 38, 39, 41. Is it so great a misery to lose our common labours, to sow in vain, and build in vain? How much more to lose our pains in Religion, to pray and hear, and fast in vain? This is an undoing and eternal loss. Be not deceived, if thou goest on in thy sinful State, though thou shouldest spread forth thine hands, God will hide his Eyes; though thou make many Prayers, he will not hear, *Isa.* 1. 15. If a Man without skill set about our work, and marr it in the doing, though he takes much pains, we give him but small thanks. God will be worshipped after the due order, *1 Chron.* 15. 13. If a servant do our work, but quite contrary to our order, he shall have rather stripes than praise. God's Work must be done according to God's mind, or he will not be pleased; and this cannot be, except it be done with a holy Heart, *2 Chron.* 25. 2.

IV. *Without this, thy hopes are in vain,* *Job* 8. 12, 13. *The Lord hath rejected thy Confidence,* *Jer.* 2. 37.

First, *Thy hopes of Comfort here are in vain.* 'Tis not only Necessary to the safety, but comfort of your condition, that you be converted. Without this you shall *not know peace,* *Isa.* 59. 8. Without the fear of God, you cannot have the *comforts of the Holy Ghost,* *Acts* 9. 31. God speaks peace only to his People and to his Saints, *Psal.* 85. 8. If you have a false peace, continuing in your Sins, 'tis not of God's speaking; and then you may guess the Author. Sin is a real *Sickness,* *Isa.* 1. 5. yea the worst of sickness; 'tis a *Leprosie in the head,* *Lev.* 13. 44. *the plague in the heart,* *1 Kin.* 8. 38. 'tis *brokenness in the bones,* *Psal.* 51. 8. it pierceth, it woundeth, it racketh, it tormenteth, *1 Tim.* 6. 10. A

6. 10. A Man may as well expect ease, when his diseases are in their strength, or his Bones out of joint as true comfort, while in his Sins.

O wretched Man, that canst have no ease in this case, but what comes from the deadliness of the disease! You shall have the poor sick Man, saying in his lightness, he is well, when you see Death in his Face. He will needs up and about his business, when the very next step is like to be into the Grave. The un sanctified often see nothing amiss, they think themselves whole, and cry not out for the Physician; but this shews the danger of their Case.

Sin doth naturally breed distempers and disturbances in the Soul. What a continual tempest and commotion is there in a discontented mind? What an eating evil is inordinate care? What is passion but a very fever in the mind? What is Lust but a Fire in the Bones? What is Pride but a deadly tympany? Or covetousness but an unsatiable and unsufferable thirst? Or malice and envy but venom in the very Heart? Spiritual sloth is but a scurvy in the mind, and carnal security a mortal lethargy; and how can that Soul have true Comfort that is under so many diseases? But converting Grace cures, and so eases the mind, and prepares the Soul for a settled, standing, immortal Peace. *Great peace have they that love thy Commands, and nothing shall offend them, Psal. 119. 165.* They are the ways of Wisdom that afford pleasure and peace, *Prov. 3. 17.* David had infinitely more pleasure in the Word, than in all the delights of his Court, *Psal. 119. 103, 127.* The Conscience cannot be truly pacified, till soundly purified, *Heb. 10. 22.* Cursed is that peace, that is maintained in a way of Sin, *Deut. 29. 19, 20.* Two sorts of peace are more to be dreaded than all the troubles in the World; peace with Sin, and peace in Sin.

Secondly, *Thy hopes of Salvation hereafter are in vain;* yea, worse than in vain, they are most injurious to God, most pernicious to thy self; there is death, des-

peration, blasphemy in the Bowels of this Hope.
 1. *There is death in it. Thy Confidence shall be rooted out of thy Tabernacles* (God will up with it root and branch) *it shall bring thee to the King of Terrors,* Job 18. 14. *tho' thou maist lean upon this house it will not stand,* Job 8. 15. but will prove like a ruinous building, which when a Man trusts to, it falls down about his Ears. 2. *There is desperation in it. Where is the Hope of the Hypocrite, when God takes away his Soul?* Job 27. 8. Then there is an end for ever of his Hope. Indeed, the hope of the Righteous hath an end, but then 'tis not a destructive, but a perfective end; his hope ends in fruition, others in frustration, Prov. 10. 28. The godly must say at death, *It is finished*, but the wicked, *It is perished*; and in too sad earnest bemoan himself, (as Job in a mistake) *Where now is my hope? He hath destroyed me, I am gone, and my hope is removed like a tree,* Job 19. 10. *The righteous hath hope in his death,* Prov. 14. 32. When nature is dying, his hopes are living, when his body is flourishing, his hopes are flourishing; his hope is a living hope, 1 Pet. 1. 3. *ἡ ἐλπίς ζωῶν*, but others a dying, yea a damning, soul-undoing hope. *When a wicked man dieth his expectation shall perish, and the hope of unjust men perisheth,* Prov. 11. 7. *It shall be cut off,* and prove like the Spiders Web, Job 8. 14. which he spins out of his own Bowels, but then comes death with the broom, and takes down all, and so there is an eternal end of his confidence, where-in he trusted, *For the eyes of the wicked shall fail, and their hope shall be as the giving up of the Ghost,* Job 11. 20. Wicked Men are settled in their carnal hope, and will not be beaten out of it. They hold it fast, they will not let it go. Yea but death will knock off their Fingers. Though we cannot undeceive them, Death and Judgment will. When Death strikes his Dart through thy Liver, it will let out thy Soul and thy hopes together. The unsanctified have hope only in this Life, 1 Cor. 15. 19. and therefore are of all Men most miserable. When death comes, it lets them out into

into the amazing gulf of endless desperation. 3. *There is blasphemy in it.* To hope we shall be saved though continuing unconverted, is to hope we shall prove God a liar. He hath told you, that so merciful and pitiful as he is, he will never save you notwithstanding, if you go in ignorance, or a course of unrighteousness, *Isa. 27. 11. 1 Cor. 6. 9.* In a word, he hath told you, that whatever you be or do, nothing shall avail you to Salvation without you be new creatures, *Gal. 6. 15.* Now to say God is merciful, and we hope he will save us nevertheless, is to say in effect, we hope God will not do as he saith. We may not set God's Attributes at variance. God is resolved to glorify Mercy, but not with the prejudice of truth; as the presumptuous Sinner will find to his everlasting sorrow.

Object. Why, but we hope in Jesus Christ, we put our whole trust in God, and therefore doubt not but we shall be saved.

Ans. 1. This is not to hope in Christ, but against Christ. To hope to see the Kingdom of God, without being born again, to hope to find eternal Life in the broad way, is to hope Christ will prove a false Prophet. 'Tis David's plea, *I hope in thy Word, Psal. 119. 81* but this hope is against the Word. Shew me a word of Christ for thy hope, that he will save thee in thine ignorance, or prophane neglects of his service, and I will never go to shake thy confidence.

2. *God doth with abhorrence reject this hope:* Those condemned in the Prophet, went on in their Sins, yet (saith the Text) they will lean upon the Lord, *Mic. 3. 11.* God will not endure to be mad a prop to Men in their Sins: The Lord rejected those presumptuous Sinners, that went on still in their trespasses, and yet would stay themselves upon the God of, *Israel, Isa. 48. 1, 2.* as a Man would shake off the briars (as one said well) that cleave to his garment.

3. *If thy hope be any thing worth, it will purifie thee from thy sins,* 1 *John* 3. 3. but cursed is that hope, which doth cherish Men in their Sins.

Object. Would you have us to despair?

Answ. You must despair of ever coming to Heaven as you are, *Acts* 2. 37. that is, while you remain unconverted. You must despair ever to see the face of God without Holiness, but you must by no means despair of finding Mercy, upon your thorough Repentance and Conversion; neither may you despair of attaining to Repentance and Conversion, in the use of God's means.

V. *Without this, all that Christ hath done and suffered will be (as to you) in vain,* *John* 13. 8. *Tit.* 2. 14. that is, it will no way avail to your Salvation. Many urge this as a sufficient ground for their hopes, that Christ died for Sinners: But I must tell you, Christ never died to save impenitent and unconverted Sinners (so continuing) *2Tim.* 2. 19. A great Divine was wont, in his private dealings with Souls, to ask two Questions; 1. What hath Christ done for you? 2. What hath Christ wrought in you? Without the application of the Spirit in Regeneration, we can have no saving interest in the benefits of Redemption. I tell you from the Lord, Christ himself cannot save you, if you go on in this State.

I. *It were against his Trust.* The Mediator is the Servant of the Father, *Isa.* 42. 1. shews his Commission from him, Acts in his name, and pleads his Command for his Justification, *John* 10. 18. 36. *John* 6. 38, 40. And God hath committed all things to him, entrusted his own Glory, and the salvation of his Elect with him, *Matth.* 11. 27. *John* 17. 2. Accordingly, Christ gives his Father an account of both parts of his Trust, before he leaves the World, *John* 17. 4, 6, 12. Now Christ should quite cross his Father's Glory, his greatest Trust, if he should save Men in their Sins; for this were to overturn all his Counsels, and to offer violence to all his attributes.

First,

First, *To overturn all his Counsels*, of which this is the Order, that Men should be brought through Sanctification, to Salvation, *2 Thes. 2. 13.* He hath chosen them, that they should be holy, *Eph. 1. 4.* They are elected to pardon and life through Sanctification, *1 Pet. 1. 2.* If thou canst repeal the Law of God's immutable Counsel, or corrupt him, whom the Father hath sealed, to go directly against his Commission, then, and not otherwise, maist thou get to Heaven in this condition. To hope that Christ will save thee while unconverted, is to hope that Christ will falsifie his Trust. He never did, nor will save one Soul, but whom the Father hath given him in Election, and drawn to him in effectual calling, *John 6. 37, 44.* Be assured, Christ will save none in a way contrary to his Father's Will, *John 6. 38.*

Secondly, *To offer violence to all his Attributes.* 1. *To his Justice.* For the Righteousness of God's Judgment lies, in rendring to all according to their Works, *Rom. 2. 5, 6.* Now, should Men sow to the Flesh, and yet of the Spirit reap everlasting Life, *Gal. 6. 7, 8.* where were the Glory of Divine Justice, since it should be given to the wicked according to the work of the Righteous? 2. *To his holiness.* If God should not only save Sinners, but save them in their Sins, his most pure and strict Holiness would be exceedingly defaced. The Unsanctified is in the Eyes of God's Holiness, worse than a Swine or Viper, *Mat. 23. 33. 2 Pet. 2. 22.* Now what cleanly nature could indure to have the filthy Swine Bed and Board with him in his Parlour, or Bed-chamber? It would offer the extreamest violence to the infinite purity of the Divine Nature, to have such to dwell with him! They cannot stand in his Judgment, they cannot abide in his Presence, *Psalms. 1. 5. Psalm. 5. 4, 5.* If holy David would not endure such in his House, no nor in his Sight, *Psalms. 101. 3, 7.* shall we think God will? Should he take Men as they be from the Trough to the Table, from the Harlots lips, from the Styce and Draff, to the

the Glory of Heaven, the World would think God were at no such a distance from Sin, nor had such dislike of it, as we are told he hath: They would conclude, God were altogether such a one as themselves (as they wickedly did, but from the very forbearance of God, *Psalms*. 50. 21.) 3. *To his Veracity.* For God hath declared from Heaven, *That if any shall say he shall have peace, tho' he should go on in the imagination of his heart: his wrath shall smother against that man*, *Deut.* 29. 19, 20. *That they (only) that confess, and forsake their sins shall find mercy*, *Prov.* 28. 13. *That they that shall enter into his Hill, must be of clean hands and a pure heart*, *Psalms*. 24. 3, 4. Where were God's Truth, if notwithstanding all this, he should bring Men to Salvation without Conversion? O desperate Sinner, that darest to hope, that Christ will put the Iye upon his Father, and nullifie his word to save thee! 4. *To his Wisdom.* For this were to throw away the choicest Mercies, on them that would not value them, nor were any way suited to them. *First*, They would not value them. The un sanctified Sinner puts but little price upon God's great Salvation, *Mat.* 22. 5. He sets no more by Christ than the whole by the Physician, *Mat.* 9. 12. he prizes not his balm, values not his cure, tramples upon his blood, *Heb.* 10. 29. Now would it stand with wisdom, to force pardon and Life, upon them that would give him no thanks for them? Will the all-wise God (when he hath forbidden us to do it) throw his holy Things to Dogs, and his Pearls to Swine, that would (as it were) but turn again, and rend him? *Mat.* 7. 6. This would make Mercy to be despised indeed. Wisdom requires, that Life be given in a way suitable to God's Honor, and that God provide for the securing his own Glory, as well as Man's Felicity. It would be dishonorable to God, to set his Jewels on the Snouts of Swine (continuing such) and to bestow his choicest riches on them, that have more pleasure in their swill, than the heavenly delights that he doth offer. God should lose the Praise
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and Glory of his Grace, if he should cast it away on them, that were not only unworthy, but unwilling. Secondly, They are no way suited to them. The Divine Wisdom is seen in suiting things each to other, the means to the end, the object to the Faculty, the quality of the Gift to the Capacity of the Receiver. Now, if Christ should bring the unregenerate Sinner to Heaven, he could take no more felicity there, than a Beast if *you should* bring him into a beautiful Room, to the Society of learned Men, and a well-furnished Table: When as the poor thing had much rather be grazing with his fellow-bruits. Alas, what should an unsanctified Creature due in Heaven! He could take no content there, because nothing suits him. The place doth not suit him, he would be but *piscis in arido*, quite out of his Element, as a Swine in the Parlour, or a Fish out of Water. The Company doth not suit him. What Communion hath Darkness with Light, Corruption with Perfection? Filth and rottenness, with glory and immortality? The employment doth not suit him: The Anthems of Heaven fit not his Mouth, suit not his Ear. Canst thou charm thy Beast with Musick? Or wilt thou bring him to thy Organ, and expect that he should make thee Melody, or keep time with the skilful Quire? Or had he skill, he would have no will, and so could find no pleasure, no more than the nauseous Stomach in the Meat, on which it hath newly surfeited. Spread thy Table with Delicates before a languishing Patient, and it will be but a very offence. Alas, if the poor Man think a Sermon long, and say of a Sabbath, *What a weariness is it?* *Mal. 1. 13.* how miserable would he think it, to be held to it to all eternity? 5. *To his immutability, or else to his Omniscieny, Omnipotency.* For this is enacted in the Conclave of Heaven, and enrolled in the decrees of the Court above, that none but *the pure in heart shall ever see God, Mat. 5. 8.* This is laid up with him, and sealed among his Treasures. Now if Christ, yet, bring any to Heaven unconverted, either
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he must get them in without his Fathers knowledge, and then where is his Omniscieny? Or against his Will, and then where were his Omnipotency? Or he must change his will, and then where were his Immutability?

Sinner, Wilt thou not yet give up thy vain hope of being saved in this condition? Saith Bildad, *Shall the earth be forsaken for thee? Or the rocks moved out of their place?* Job. 18. 4. May not I, much more reason so with thee? Shall the Laws of Heaven be reversed for thee? Shall the everlasting Foundations be overturned for thee? Shall Christ put out the Eye of his Father's Omniscieny, or shorten the arm of his eternal power for thee? Shall Divine Justice be violated for thee? or the brightness of the Glory of his Holiness be blemished for thee? O the impossibility, absurdity, blasphemy, that is in such a confidence! To think Christ will ever save thee in this condition, is to make thy Saviour to become a Sinner; and to do more wrong to the infinite Majesty, than all the wicked on Earth, or Devils in Hell ever did, or could. And yet wilt thou not give up such a blasphemous hope?

II. *Against his word.* We need not say, *Who shall ascend into Heaven, to bring down Christ from above? Or who shall descend into the deep, to bring up Christ from beneath?* The word is nigh us, Rom. 10. 6, 7, 8. Are you agreed that Christ shall end the Controversie? Hear then his own Words; *Except you be converted you shall in no wise enter into the Kingdom of Heaven,* Mat. 18. 3. *You must be born again,* John 3. 7. *If I wash thee not, thou hast no part in me,* John 13. 8. *Repent or perish,* Luke 13. 3. One word, one would think, were enough from Christ; but how often and earnestly doth he reiterate it, Verily, verily, verily, verily, except a Man, be born again, he shall not see the Kingdom of God, John 3. 3, 5. Yea, he doth not only assert, but prove the Necessity of the new birth, viz. from the fleshliness and filthiness of Man's first birth, John 3. 6. by reason of which, Man is no more fit for Heaven than

than the Beast is for the Chamber of the King's Presence. And wilt thou yet believe thine own presumptuous confidence, directly against Christ's Words? He must go quite against the Law of his Kingdom, and Rule of his Judgment, to *save* thee in this estate.

III. *Against his Oath.* He hath lifted up his hand to Heaven, he hath sworn, that those that remain in unbelief, and know not his ways (that is, are ignorant of them, or disobedient to them) shall not enter into his rest, *Psalms*. 95. 11. *Heb.* 3. 18. and wilt thou not yet believe, O Sinner, that he is in earnest? Canst thou hope he will be forsworn for thee? The Covenant of Grace is confirmed by an Oath, and sealed by blood, *Heb.* 6. 17. *Heb.* 9. 16, 18, 19. *Mat.* 26. 28. But all must be made void, and another way to Heaven found out, if thou be saved, living and dying unsanctified. God is come to his lowest and last terms with Man, and hath condescended as far as with honour he could, hath set up his Pillars with a *Ne plus ultra*. Men cannot be saved, while unconverted, except they could get another Covenant made, and the whole frame of the Gospel, (which was established for ever, with such dreadful solemnities) quite altered; and would not this be a distracted hope?

IV. *Against his Honor.* God will so shew his love to the Sinner as withal to shew his hatred to Sin. Therefore he that names the name of Jesus, must depart from iniquity, *2 Tim.* 2. 19. and deny all ungodliness; and he that hath hope of Life by Christ must purifie himself as he is pure, *1 John* 3. 3. *Tit.* 2. 12. otherwise Christ would be thought a favourer of Sin. The Lord Jesus would have all the World to know, though he pardon Sin, he will not protect it. If holy David would say, *Depart from me all you workers of iniquity*, *Psalms*. 6. 8. and would shut his doors against them, *Psalms*. 101. 7. shall not such much more expect it from Christ's Holiness? Would it be for his Honour, to have the Dogs to the Table? or to lodge

lodge the Swine with his Children? or to have *Abraham's* bosom to be a nest of Vipers.

V. *Against his Offices.* God hath exalted him to be a Prince and a Saviour, Acts 5. 31. he should act against both, should he save Men in their Sins. It is the Office of a King.

Parcere subjectis, & debellare superbos.

To be a terror to evil doers, and a praise to them that do well, Rom. 13. 3, 4. He is a Minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath on him that doth evil. Now should Christ favour the ungodly (so continuing) and take those to reign with him, that would not, that he should reign over them, Luke 19. 27. this were quite against his Office: He therefore reigns, that he may put his Enemies under his feet, 1 Cor. 15. 25. now should he lay them in his bosom, he should cross the end of his regal Power. It belongs to Christ, as a King, to subdue the Hearts, and slay the lusts of his chosen, Psalm. 45. 5. Psalm. 110. 3. What King would take the Rebels, in open hostility, into his Court? What were this but to betray Life, Kingdom, Government and all together? If Christ be a King, he must have Homage, Honour, Subjection, &c. Mal. 1. 6. Now to save Men while in their natural enmity, were to obscure his Dignity, lose his Authority, bring contempt on his Government, and sell his dear-bought rights for nought.

Again, as Christ should not be a Prince, so neither a Saviour, if he should do this. For his Salvation is spiritual, he is called Jesus, because he saves his people from their sins, Mat. 1. 21. So that should he save them in their sins, he should be neither Lord nor Jesus. To save Men from the punishment, and not from the power of Sin, were to do his work by halves, and be an imperfect Saviour. His Office, as the Deliverer, is to turn away ungodliness from Jacob, Rom. 11. 26. He is sent to bless men in turning them from their iniquities, Acts

3. 26. to make an end of sin, Dan. 9. 24. so that he should destroy his own designs, and nullifie his Office, to save Men abiding in their unconverted Estate.

Application. Arise then, what meanest thou, O sleeper? Awake, O secure sinner, lest thou be consumed in thine iniquities, Say as the Lepers, *If we sit here we shall die*, 2 Kings 7. 3, 4. Verily, it is not more certain, that thou art now out of Hell, than that thou shalt speedily be in it, except thou repent and be Converted, there is but this one door for thee to escape by. Arise then, O sluggard, and shake of thine excuses. How long wilt thou slumber, and fold thine hands to sleep? Prov. 6. 10, 11. Wilt thou lie down in the midst of the Sea, or sleep on the top of the Mast? Prov. 23. 34. There is no remedy, but thou must either turn or burn. There is an unchangeable necessity of the change of thy condition, except thou art resolved to abide the worst of it, and try it out with the Almighty. If thou lovest thy life, O Man, arise and come away. Methinks I see the Lord Jesus laying the merciful hands of an holy violence upon thee; methinks he carries it like the Angels to Lot, Gen. 19. 15, &c. *Then the Angels hastned Lot, saying, Arise, lest thou be consumed: And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, the Lord being merciful unto him, and they brought him without the City, and said, Escape for thy life; stay not in all the Plain; escape to the Mountain, lest thou be consumed.*

O how wilful will thy destruction be, if thou shouldst yet harden thy self in thy sinful state! But none of you can say, but you have had fair warning. Yet methinks I cannot tell how to leave you so: It is not enough to me to have delivered my own Soul. What, shall I go away without my errand? Will none of you arise, and follow me? Have I been all this while speaking to the Wind? Have I been charming the deaf Adder, or allaying the rumbling Ocean with Arguments? Do I speak to the Trees or Rocks,

or to Men? To the Tombs and Monuments of the dead, or to a living Auditory? If you be Men, and not senseless stocks, stand still, and consider whither you are going; if you have the reason and understanding of Men dare not to run into the Flames, and fall into Hell with your Eyes open: But bethink your selves, and set to the work of Repentance. What! Men, and yet run into the pit, when the very beasts will not be forced in! What, endowed with Reason, and yet dally with Death and Hell, and the vengeance of the Almighty! Are Men herein distinguished from the very bruits, that they have no foresight of, and care to provide for the things to come? And will you not hasten your escape from eternal Torments? O shew your selves Men, and let reason prevail with you; is it a reasonable thing for you to contend against the Lord your Maker? *Isa.* 45. 9. or to harden your selves against his word? *Job* 9. 4. as though the strength of *Israel* would lie? *1 Sam.* 15. 29. Is it reasonable that an understanding creature should lose, yea live quite against the very end of his Being, and be as a broken Pitcher, only fit for the Dunghil? Is it tolerable, that the only thing in this World that God hath made capable of knowing his Will, and bringing him Glory, should yet live in ignorance of his Maker, and be unserviceable to his use; yea should be engaged against him, and spit his venom in the face of his Creator? Hear, O Heavens, and give Ear, O Earth, and let the Creatures without sense be judge, if this be Reason, that Man, when God hath nourished and brought him up, should rebel against him, *Isa.* 1. 2. Judge in your own selves: Is it a reasonable undertaking, for Bryars and Thorns to set themselves in Battle against the devouring Fire? *Isa.* 27. 4. or for the Potsherd of the Earth to strive with his Maker? If you will say, this is Reason, surely the eye of Reason is quite put out. And if this be not Reason, then there is no Reason, that you should continue as you be, but 'tis all the reason in the World, you should forthwith repent and turn. What

What shall I say? I could spend my self in this Argument. O that you would but hearken to me! that you would presently set upon a new Course! will you not be made clean? When shall it once be? What! will no body be perswaded? Reader, shall I prevail with thee for one? Wilt thou sit down and consider the forementioned Arguments, and debate it, whether it be not best to turn? Come and let us reason together. Is it good for thee to be here? Wilt thou sit still, till the tide come in upon thee? Is it good for thee to try whether God will be so good as his word? and to harden thy self in a conceit, that all is well with thee, while thou remainest un sanctified.

But I know you will not be perswaded, but the greatest part will be as they have been, and do as they have done. I know the Drunkard will to his vomit again, and the deceiver will to his deceit again, and the lustful wanton to his dalliance again. Alas, that I must leave you where you were; in your ignorance or looseness, or in your lifeless formality and customary Devotions! however, I will sit down and bemoan my fruitless Labours, and spend some sighs over my perishing Hearers.

O distracted Sinners! What will their end be? What will they do in the day of Visitation? *Whither will they flee for help? Where will they leave their glory?* *Isa.* 10. 3. how powerfully hath Sin bewitched them? How effectually hath the God of this World blinded them? How strong is their delusion? How uncircumcised their Ears? How obdurate their Hearts? Satan hath them at his beck. But how long may I call, and can get no answer? I may dispute with them year after year, and they will give me the hearing, and that is all. They must and will have their Sins, say what I will. Though I tell them there is death in the Cup, yet they will take it up. Though I tell them 'tis the broad way, and endeth in destruction, yet they will go on in it. I warn them,

yet cannot win them. Sometimes I think, the Mercies of God will melt them, and his winning invitations will overcome them : But I find them as they were : Sometimes, that the terrour of the Lord will perswade them ; yet neither will this do it. They will approve the Word, like the Sermon, commend the Preacher, but they will yet live as they did. They will not deny me, yet they will not obey me. They will flock to the Word of God, and sit before me as his People, & hear my words, but they will not do them. They value & will plead for Ministers ; and I am to them as the lovely Song of one that hath a pleasant Voice ; yet I cannot get them to come under *Christ's* Yoke. They love me, and will be ready to say, they will do any thing for me ; but for my Life, I cannot perswade them to leave their Sins, to forgoe their Evil Company, their intemperance, their unjust Gains, &c. I cannot prevail with them, to set up prayer in their Families and Closets, yet they will promise me, like the forward Son, that said, *I go Sir, but went not*, *Mat. 21. 30.* I cannot perswade them to learn the principles of Religion, though else *they will die without knowledge*, *Job 36. 12.* I tell them their Misery ; but they will not believe but 'tis well enough ; If I tell them particularly, I fear for such reasons their State is bad, they will judge me censorious ; or if they be at present a little awakened, are quickly lull'd asleep by Satan again, and have lost the sense of all.

Alas for my poor hearers ! Must they perish at last by hundreds, when Ministers would so fain save them ? What course shall I use with them that I have not tryed ? *What shall I do for the daughter of my people ? Jer. 9. 7.* O Lord God help. *Alas shall I leave them thus ? If they will not hear me ; yet do thou hear me. O that they might yet live in thy sight ! Lord save them, or else they perish. My heart would melt to see their houses on fire about their ears, when they were fast asleep in their Beds : And shall not my soul be moved within me, to see them falling into endless perdition ?*

Lord

Lord have compassion, and save them out of the burning. Put forth thy divine power, and the work will be done : but as for me I cannot prevail.

CHAP. IV.

Shewing the Marks of the Unconverted.

WHILE we keep aloof in Generals, there is little fruit to be expected. It is the hand-fight that does execution. *David* is not awaken'd by the Prophets hovering at a distance, in parabolical insinuations : He is forced to close with him, and tell him home, *Thou art the man*. Few will, in words, deny the Necessity of the new Birth ; but they have a self-deluding confidence, that the work is not now to do. And because they know themselves free from that gross hypocrisie, that doth take up Religion meerly for a colour to deceive others, and for the covering of wicked designs : They are confident of their sincerity, and suspect not that more close hypocrisie (where the greatest danger lies) by which a Man deceiveth his own soul, *Jam. i. 26*. But Man's deceitful Heart is such a matchless cheat, and self-delusion, so reigning and so fatal a disease, that I know not whether be the greater, the difficulty, or the dissimulation, or the Necessity of the undeceiving work that I am now upon. Alas for my unconverted hearers ! They must be undeceived or undone ; but how shall this be effected ? *hic labor, hoc opus est.*

Help, O all-searching light, and let thy discerning eye discover the rotten foundation of the self-deceiver ; and lead me O Lord God, as thou didst thy Prophet, into the Chambers of Imagery, and dig through the wall of Sinners Hearts, and discover the hidden abominations that are lurking out of sight in the dark. O send thine Angel before me, to open the sundry Wards of their hearts, as thou didst before Peter, and make even the Iron Gates to fly open of their own accord. And as Jonathan no sooner

tasted the Honey, but his eyes were enlightned ; so grant, O Lord, that when the poor deceived souls with whom I have to do, shall cast their eyes upon these lines, their minds may be illuminated, and their consciences convinced and awakened, that they may see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and be converted, and thou maist heal them.

This must be premised, before we proceed to the discovery, that it is most certain, Men may have a confident perswasion, that their Hearts and States be good, and yet be unsound. Hear the Truth himself, who shews in *Laodicea's* case, that Men may be wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked, and yet not know it, yea they may be confident, they are rich and increased in Grace, *Rev. 3. 17. There is a generation that is pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness, Prov. 30. 12.* who better perswaded of his Case, than *Paul*, while yet he remained unconverted? *Rom. 7. 9.* So that they are miserably deceived, that take a strong confidence, for a sufficient evidence. They that have no better proof, than barely a strong perswasion, that they are converted, are certainly as yet strangers to Conversion.

But to come more close ; as it was said of the adherents of Antichrist, so here ; some of the unconverted carry their marks in their Foreheads, more openly ; and some in their hands, more covertly. The Apostle reckons up some upon whom he writes the sentence of Death, as in these dreadful Catalogues, which I beseech you to attend with all diligence, *Eph. 5. 5, 6. For this you know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an Idolater, hath an inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words, for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the Children of disobedience, Rev. 21. 8. But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their*

part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death, 1 Cor. 6. 9, 10. Know you not, that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, and adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the Kingdom of God? See Gal. 5. 19, 20, 21. Wo to them that have their names written in these bed-rolls: Such may know, as certainly as if God had told it them from Heaven, that they are un sanctified, and under an impossibility of being saved in this condition.

There are then these several sorts, that past all dispute, are unconverted, they carry their marks in their foreheads.

1. *The Unclean.* These are ever reckoned among the Goats, and have their Names, whoever be left out, in all the forementioned Catalogues, Eph. 5. 5. Rev. 21. 8. 1 Cor. 5. 9, 10.

2. *The Covetous.* These are ever branded for Idolaters, and the Doors of the Kingdom are shut against them by Name, Eph. 5. 5. Col. 3. 5. 1 Cor. 6. 9, 10.

3. *Drunkards.* Not only such as drink away their Reason, but withal, yea, above all, such as are too strong for strong-drink. The Lord fills his Mouth with woes against these, and declares them to have no inheritance in the Kingdom of God, Isa. 5. 11, 12, 22. Gal. 5. 21.

4. *Liars.* The God that cannot lie hath told them, that there is no place for them in his Kingdom, no entrance into his Hill; but their portion is with the Father of Lies (whose Children they are) in the Lake of burnings, Psal. 15. 1, 2. Rev. 21. 8, 27. John 8. 44. Prov. 6. 17.

5. *Swearers.* The end of these, without deep and speedy Repentance, is swift destruction, and most certain and unavoidable condemnation, Jam. 5. 12. Zeck. 5. 1, 2, 3.

6. *Railers and Back-biters*, that love to take up a Reproach against their Neighbour, and fling all the dirt they can in his face, or else wound him secretly behind his back, *Psalms*. 15. 1, 3. *1 Cor.* 6. 10. *1 Cor.* 5. 11.

7. *Thieves*. Extortioners, Oppressors, that grind the poor, over-reach their Brethren, when they have them at an Advantage, these must know, that *God is the avenger of all such*, *1 Thes.* 4. 6. Hear, O ye false and purloining and wasteful Servants: Hear, O ye deceitful Tradesmen, hear your Sentence. God will certainly hold his door against you, and turn your Treasures of Unrighteousness into the Treasures of Wrath, and make your ill-gotten Silver and Gold, to torment you like burning Metal in your bowels, *1 Cor.* 6. 9, 10. *James* 5. 2, 3.

8. *All that do ordinarily live in the prophane neglect of God's Worship*, that hear not his Word, that call not on his Name, that restrain prayer before God, that mind not their own, nor their Families Souls, but live without God in the World, *John* 8. 47. *Job* 15. 4. *Psalms*. 14. 4. *Psalms*. 79. 6. *Eph.* 2. 12. and 4. 18.

9. *Those that are frequenters and lovers of evil company*. God had declared, he will be the destruction of all such, and that they shall never enter into the Hill of his rest, *Prov.* 13. 20. *Psalms*. 15. 4. *Prov.* 9. 6.

10. *Scoffers at Religion*. That make a scorn of precise walking, and mock at the Messengers and diligent Servants of the Lord, and at their holy profession, and make themselves merry with the weakness and failings of Professors: Hear, ye despisers, hear your dreadful doom, *Prov.* 19. 29. *2 Chron.* 36. 16. *Prov.* 3. 34.

Sinner, consider diligently, whether thou art not to be found in one of these Ranks; for if this be thy case thou art in the gall of bitterness, and bond of iniquity;

iniquity; for all these do carry their marks in their foreheads, and are undoubtedly the Sons of Death.

And if so, the Lord pity our poor Congregations; O how little a number will be left, when these ten sorts are set out! Alas on how many doors, on how many faces must we write, Lord have mercy upon us! Sirs, what shift do you make to keep up your confidence of your good Estate, when God from Heaven declares against you, and pronounces you in a state of damnation? I would Reason with you, as God with them; *How canst thou say, I am not polluted?* Jer. 2. 23. *See thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done.* Man, is not thy Conscience privy to thy tricks of deceit, to thy Chamber pranks, to thy way of lying? Yea, are not thy Friends, thy Family, thy Neighbours, witnesses to thy prophane neglects of God's Worship, to thy covetous practices, to thy envious and malicious Carriage? May not they point at thee, as thou goest, there goes a gaming Prodigal; there goes a drunken *Nabal*, a companion of evil-doers; there goes a Railer, or a Scoffer, a loose-liver? Beloved, God hath written it, as with a Sun-beam, in the book out of which you must be judged, that these are not the spots of his Children, and that none such (except renewed by converting Grace) shall ever escape the damnation of Hell.

O that such of you would now be perswaded to repent and turn from all your transgressions; or else iniquity will be your ruin! *Ezek. 18. 30.* Alas for poor hard'ned Sinners. Must I leave you at last where you were? Must I leave the Tipler still at the Ale-bench? Must I leave the wanton still at his dalliance? Must I leave the malicious still in his venom? And the Drunkard still at his vomit? However you must know that you have been warned, and that I am clear of your Blood. And whether Men will hear, or whether they will forbear, I will leave these Scriptures with them, either as thunder-bolts to awaken them, or as searing Irons to harden them to a repro-

bate sence. *Psalm. 68. 21. God shall wound the head of his enemies, and the hairy scalp of such a one, as goeth on still in his trespasses. Prov. 29. 1. He that being often reproved hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. Prov. 1. 24, &c. Because I have called, and ye refused, I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded, &c. I will mock at your calamity—when your destruction cometh as a whirlwind.*

And now I imagine, many will begin to bless themselves, and think all is well because they cannot be spotted with the grosser evils above mentioned. But I must further tell you, that there are another sort of un sanctified Persons, that carry not their marks in their Foreheads, but more secretly and covertly in their hands. These do frequently deceive themselves and others, and pass for good Christians, when they are all the while unsound at bottom. Many pass undiscovered, till Death and Judgment bring all to light. Those self-deceivers seem to come even to Heaven's Gate with confidence of their admission, and yet are turned off at last, *Mat. 7. 22. Brethren, beloved, I beseech you deeply to lay to heart, and firmly to retain this awakening consideration: That multitudes miscarry by the hand of some secret sin, that is, not only hidden from others, but (for want of observing their own hearts) even from themselves. A Man may be free from open pollutions, and yet die at last by the fatal hand of some unobserved iniquity. And there be these twelve hidden Sins, by which Souls go down by numbers into the Chambers of Death. These you must search carefully for, and take them as black marks (wherever they be found) discovering a graceless and unconverted estate. And as you love your lives, read carefully, with a holy jealousy of your selves, lest you should be the Persons concerned.*

I. Gross Ignorance. Ah how many poor Souls doth this Sin kill in the dark, *Hos. 4. 6.* while they think verily they have good Hearts, and are in the ready way to Heaven! This is the murderer that dispatches thousands

thousands in a silent manner, when (poor Hearts!) they suspect nothing, and see not the hand that mischiefs them. You shall find whatever excuses you have for ignorance, that 'tis a soul undoing evil, *Isa. 27. 11. 2 Thes. 1. 8. 2 Cor. 4. 3.* Ah! would it not have pitied a Man's Heart to have seen that woful Spectacle, when the poor Protestants were shut up a multitude together in a Barn, and a Butcher comes, with his inhumane hands warm in humane Blood, and leads them one by one blind-fold to a Block, where he slew them (poor Innocents!) one after another by the scores in cold blood? But how much more should our Hearts bleed, to think of the hundreds in great Congregations, that ignorance doth butcher in secret, and lead them blind-fold to the Block? Beware this be none of your case. Make no pleas for ignorance. If you spare that sin, know that that will not spare you. Will a Man keep a Murderer in his Bosom?

2. *Secret reserves in closing with Christ.* To forsake all for Christ, to hate Father and Mother, yea, and a Man's own Life for him, this is a hard saying, *Luke 14. 26.* Some will do much, but they will not be of the Religion that will undo them; they never come to be entirely devoted to Christ, nor fully to resign to him: They must have the sweet Sin: They mean to do themselves no harm: They have secret exceptions, for Life, Liberty, or Estate. Many take Christ thus hand over head, and never consider his self-denying terms, nor cast up the cost; and this error in the foundation marrs all, and secretly ruins them for ever, *Luke 14. 28. Mat. 13. 21.*

3. *Formality in Religion.* Many stick in the bark, and rest in the out-side of Religion, and in the external performances of holy Duties, *Mat. 23. 25.* and this oft-times doth most effectually deceive Men, and doth more certainly undo them, than open looseness; as it was in the Pharisees case, *Mat. 23. 31.* They hear, they fast, they pray, they give alms, and there-

fore

fore will not believe but their Case is good, *Luke 18. 11.* whereas resting in the work done, and coming short of the heart-work, and the inward power and vitals of Religion, they fall at last into the burning, from the flattering hopes, and confident persuasions of their being in the ready way to Heaven, *Mat. 7. 22.*

23. O dreadful Case, when a Man's Religion shall serve only to harden him, and effectually to delude and deceive his own Soul!

4. *The prevalency of false ends in holy Duties.* *Mat. 23. 25.* This was the bane of the Pharisees. O how many a poor Soul is undone by this, and drops into Hell, before he discerns his mistake! He performs good Duties, and so thinks all is well, and perceives not that he is *actuated* by carnal Motives all the while. It is too true, that even with the truly sanctified, many carnal ends will oft-times creep in; but they are the matter of his hatred and humiliation, and never come to be habitually prevalent with him, and to bear the greatest sway, *Rom. 14. 7.* But now when the main thing that doth ordinarily carry a Man out to religious Duties, shall be some carnal end, as to satisfy his Conscience, to get the repute of being religious, to be seen of Men, to shew his own Gifts and Parts, to avoid the reproach of a prophane and irreligious Person, or the like; this discovers an unsound Heart, *Hos. 10. 1. Zech. 7. 5, 6.* O Christians, if you would avoid self-deceit, see that you mind, not only your Acts, but withal, yea, above all, your Ends.

5. *Trusting in their own righteousness,* *Luke 18. 9.* This is a soul undoing mischief, *Rom. 10. 3.* When Men do trust in their own Righteousness, they do indeed reject Christ's. Beloved, you had need be watchful on every hand, for not only your Sins, but your Duties may undo you. It may be you never thought of this, but so it is, that a Man may as certainly miscarry by his seeming Righteousness, and supposed Graces, as by gross Sins; and that is when a Man doth trust to these as his Righteousness before God,

God, for the satisfying his Justice, appeasing his Wrath, procuring his Favour, and obtaining of his own Pardon: For this is to put Christ out of Office, and make a Saviour of our own Duties and Graces. Beware of this, O professors; you are much in Duties, but this one fly will spoil all the Ointment. When you have done most, and best, be sure to go out of your selves to Christ, reckon your own Righteousness but Rags, *Psalms* 143. 2. *Phil.* 3. 8. *Isa.* 64. 6. *Neh.* 13. 22.

6. *A secret enmity against the strictness of Religion.* Many moral Persons, punctual in their formal devotion, have yet a bitter enmity against preciseness, and hate the Life and Power of Religion, *Phil.* 3. 6. compared with *Acts* 9. 1. They like not this forwardness, nor that Men should keep such a stir in Religion. They condemn the strictness of Religion, as singularity, indiscretion, and intemperate Zeal, and with them a lively Preacher, or lively Christian, is but a heady fellow. These Men love not holiness, as holiness, (for then they would love the height of holiness) and therefore are undoubtedly rotten at heart, whatever good opinion they have of themselves.

7. *The resting in a certain pitch of Religion.* When they have so much as will save them (as they suppose) they look no further, and so shew themselves short of true Grace, which will ever put Men upon aspiring to further Perfection. *Phil.* 3. 12, 13. *Prov.* 4. 18.

8. *The predominant love of the World.* This is the sure evidence of an unsanctified Heart, *Mark* 10. 37. *1 John* 2. 15.

But how close doth this sin lurk oft-times under a fair covert of forward Profession? *Luke* 8. 14. Yea such a power of deceit is there in this Sin, that many times when every body else can see the Man's worldliness, and *covetousness*, he cannot see it himself, but hath so many colours, and excuses, and pretences for his eagerness on the World, that he doth blind his own

own Eyes, and perish in his self-deceit. How many Professors be there, with whom the World hath more of their Hearts and Affections than Christ? who mind earthly things, and thereby are evidently after the Flesh, and like to end in destruction? *Rom. 8. 5. Phil. 3. 19.* Yet ask these Men; and they will tell you confidently, they prize Christ above all; God forbid else! and see not their own earthly mindedness for want of a narrow observation of the workings of their own Hearts. Did they but carefully search, they would quickly find that their greatest content is in the World, *Luke 12. 19.* and their greatest care and main endeavour to get and secure the World, which are the certain discoveries of an unconverted Sinner. May the professing part of the World take earnest heed that they perish not by the hand of this Sin unobserved. Men may be, and often are kept off from Christ, as effectually, by the inordinate love of lawful Comforts, as by the most unlawful courses, *Mat. 22. 5. Luke 14. 18, 19, 20, 24.*

9. *Reigning Malice and Envy against those that disrespect them, or are injurious to them, 1 John 2. 9, 11.* O how do many that seem to be religious remember injuries, and carry grudges, and will return Men as good as they bring, rendering evil for evil, loving to take revenge, wishing evil to them that wrong them, directly against the Rule of the Gospel, the Pattern of Christ, and the Nature of God, *Rom. 12. 14, 17. 1 Pet. 2. 21, 23. Neh. 9. 17.* Doubtless where this evil is kept boiling in the Heart, and is not hated, resisted, mortified, but doth habitually prevail, that Person is in the very gall of bitterness, and in a state of Death, *Mat. 18. 34, 35. 1 John 3. 14, 15.*

Reader, Doth nothing of this touch thee? Art thou in none of the forementioned Ranks? O search and search again; take thy heart solemnly to task. Wee unto thee, if after all thy Profession thou shouldst be found under the power of ignorance, lost in formality, drowned in earthly mindedness, envenomed with
Malice,

Malice, exalted in an opinion of thine own Righteousness, leavened with hypocrisie, and carnal ends in God's Service, imbittered against strictness: This would be a sad discovery that all thy Religion were in vain. But I must proceed.

10. *Unmortified Pride.* When Men love the praise of Men, more than the praise of God; and set their hearts upon Mens esteem, applause and approbation, it is most certain they are yet in their Sins, and Strangers to true Conversion, *John 12. 43. Gal. 1. 10.* When Men see not, nor complain of, nor groan under the pride of their own Hearts, its a sign they are stark dead in Sin. O how secretly doth this Sin live and reign in many hearts, and they know it not, but are very strangers to themselves! *John 9. 40.*

11. *The prevailing love of pleasure,* *2 Tim. 3. 4.* This is a black mark. When Men give the Flesh the liberty that it craves, and pamper, and please it, and do not deny and restrain it: when their great delight is in gratifying their Bellies, and pleasing their Senses; whatever appearance they may have of Religion, all is unsound, *Rom. 16. 18. Tit. 3. 3.* A flesh-pleasing Life cannot be pleasing to God, *They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh,* and are careful to cross it, and keep it under, as their Enemy, *Gal. 5. 24. 1 Cor. 9. 25, 26, 27.*

12. *Carnal security, or a presumptuous and ungrounded confidence, that their condition is already good,* *Rev. 3. 17.* Many cry, Peace and Safety, when sudden destruction is coming upon them, *1 Thes. 5. 3.* This was that which kept the foolish Virgins sleeping, when they should have been working; upon their Beds, when they should have been at the Markets, *Mat. 25. 5, 10. Prov. 10. 5.* They perceived not their want of Oil, till the Bridegroom was come, and while they went to buy, the door was shut.

And

And O that these foolish Virgins had no Successors! where is the place, yea, where is the House almost, where these do not dwell? Men are willing to cherish in themselves, upon never so slight grounds, a hope that their condition is good, and so look not out after a change, and by this means perish in their Sins. Are you at Peace? Shew me upon what grounds your peace is maintained. Is it a Scripture Peace? Can you shew the distinguishing marks of a sound Believer? Can you evidence, that you have something more than any Hypocrite in the World ever had? If not, fear this Peace more than any trouble; and know that a carnal peace doth commonly prove the most mortal Enemy of the poor soul; and while it smiles and kisses, and speaks it fair, doth fatally smite it, as it were under the fifth rib.

By this time, methinks, I hear my Reader crying out with the Disciples, Who then shall be saved? Set out from among our Congregations all those ten ranks of the prophane, on the one hand, and then besides, take out all those twelve sorts of close and self-deceiving Hypocrites on the other hand, and tell me then, whether it be not a remnant that shall be saved. How few will be the Sheep that shall be left, when all these shall be separated, and set among the Goats? For my part, of all my numerous hearers, I have no hope to see any of them in Heaven, that are to be found among these two and twenty sorts that are here mentioned, except by sound *conversion* they be brought into another condition.

Application. And now, Conscience, do thine office, speak out, and speak home to him that heareth or readeth these Lines. If thou find any of these marks upon him, thou must pronounce him utterly unclean, *Levit. 13. 44.* Take not up a lie into thy Mouth: speak not peace to him, to whom God speaks no peace. Let not Lust bribe thee, or self-love, or carnal prejudice blind thee. I *subpæna* thee from the Court of Heaven, to come and give in evidence: I require thee

thee in the name of God, to go with me to the search of the suspected House. As thou wilt answer it at thy peril, give in a true Report of the state and case of him that readeth this Book. Conscience, wilt thou altogether hold thy peace at such a time as this? I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us the truth. *Mat. 26. 63.* Is the Man converted, or is he not? Doth he allow himself in any way of Sin, or doth he not? Doth he truly love, and please, and prize, and delight in God above all other things, or not? Come put it to an issue.

How long shall this soul live at uncertainties? O Conscience, bring in thy *verdict*. Is this Man a new Man, or is he not? How dost thou find it? Hath there passed a thorough and mighty change upon him, or not? When was the time, where was the place, or what was the means, by which this thorough change of the new Birth was wrought in his Soul? Speak Conscience; Or if thou canst not tell time and place, canst thou shew Scripture Evidence, that the work is done? Hath the Man been ever taken off from his false bottom, from the false hopes, and false peace wherein once he trusted? Hath he been deeply convinced of Sin, and of his lost and undone condition, and brought out of himself, and off from his Sins, to give up himself entirely to Jesus Christ; Or dost thou not find him to this day under the power of ignorance, or in the mire of Prophaneness? Hast thou not taken upon him the gains of Unrighteousness? Dost not thou find him a stranger to Prayer, a neglecter of the Word, a lover of this present World? Dost not thou often catch him in a lie? Dost not thou find his heart fermented with Malice, or burning with Lust, or going after his Covetousness? Speak plainly to all the formentioned particulars: Canst thou acquit this Man, this Woman, from being any of the two and twenty sorts here described? If he be found with any of them, set him aside, his portion is not with the Saints. He must be converted & made a

new

new Creature, or else he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

Beloved, be not your own betrayers, do not deceive your own hearts, nor set your hands to your own ruin, by a wilful blinding of your selves. Set up a tribunal in your own Breasts. Bring the Word and Conscience together. *To the Law and to the Testimony, Isa. 8. 20.* Hear what the word concludes of your Estates. O follow the search till you have found how the case stands. Mistake here, and perish. And such is the treachery of the Heart, the subtilty of the Tempter, and the deceitfulness of Sin, *Jer. 17. 9. 2 Cor. 11. 3. Heb. 3. 13.* all conspire to flatter and deceive the poor Soul, and withal so common and easie it is to be mistaken, that its a thousand to one but you will be deceived, unless you be very careful, and thorough, and impartial in the inquiry into your spiritual conditions. O therefore ply your work, go to the bottom, search as with Candles, weigh you in the Ballance, come to the Standard of the Sanctuary, bring your Coin to the Touch-stone. You have the archest Cheats in the World to deal with; a World of counterfeit Coin is going; happy is he that takes no Counters for Gold. Satan, is master of Deceits, he can draw to the Life: He is perfect in the Trade: there is nothing but he can imitate. You cannot wish for any Grace, but he can fit you to a hair with a Counterfeit. Trade warily, look on every piece you take, be jealous; trust not so much as your own Hearts. Run to God to search you, and try you, to examine you, and prove your Reins, *Psalms. 26. 2. Psalm. 139. 23, 24.* If other helps suffice not to bring all to an issue, but you are still at a loss, open your cases faithfully to some godly and faithful Minister. *Mal. 2. 7.* Rest not, till you have put the business of your eternal welfare out of question, *2 Pet. 1. 10.* O searcher of hearts, put thou this soul upon, and help him in the search.

C H A P. V.

Shewing the Miseries of the Unconverted.

SO unspeakably dreadful is the case of every unconverted Soul, that I have sometimes thought if we could but convince Men, that they are yet unregenerate, the work were upon the matter done. But I sadly experience, that such a spirit of sloth and slumber (*Rom. 11. 8. Mat. 13. 15.*) possesses the Unsanctified, that though they be convinced, they are yet unconverted; they yet oft-times carelessly sit still, and what through the avocation of sensual pleasures, or hurry of worldly business, or noise and clamour of earthly Cares, and Lusts, and Affections, *Luke 8. 14.* the voice of Conscience is drowned, and Men go no farther than some cold wishes, and general purposes of repenting and amending, *Acts 24. 25.*

Its therefore of high Necessity, that I do not only convince Men, that they are unconverted; but, that I also endeavour to bring them to a sense of the fearful misery of this Estate.

But here I find my self a ground at first putting forth. What Tongue can tell the Heirs of Hell sufficiently of their misery, unless 'twere *Dives's* in that flame, *Luke 16. 24.* Where is the ready Writer, whose Pen can decipher their misery, that are without God in the World? *Eph. 2. 12.* This cannot fully be done, unless we know the infinite Ocean of that bliss and perfection which is in that God, which a state of Sin doth exclude Men from. Who knoweth (saith *Moses*) the power of thine anger? *Psalms. 90. 11.* And how shall I tell Men, that which I do not know? Yet so much we know, as, one would think, would shake the heart of that Man, that had the least degree of spiritual Life and Sense.

But this is yet the more posing difficulty, that I am to speak to them that are without Sense. Alas this is not the least part of Man's Misery upon him, that he is dead, stark dead in Trespasses and Sins, *Eph. 2. 1.*

Could I bring Paradise into view, or represent the Kingdom of Heaven to as much advantage as the tempter did the Kingdoms of the World, and all the Glory thereof, to our Saviour: Or could I uncover the face of the deep and devouring Gulph of *Tophet* in all its Terrors, and open the Gates of the infernal Furnace, alas he hath no Eyes to see it, *Mat. 13. 14, 15.* Could I paint out the Beauties of Holiness, or Glory of the Gospel to the Life; or could I bring above-board the more than Diabolical deformity, and ugliness of Sin, he can no more judge of the loveliness and beauty of the one, nor the filthiness and hateful-ness of the other, than the blind Man of colours. He is alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in him, because of the blindness of his Heart, *Eph. 4. 18.* He neither doth nor can know the things of God, because they are spiritually discerned, *1 Cor. 2. 14.* His Eyes cannot be savingly opened, but by converting Grace, *Acts 26. 18.* he is a Child of Darkness, and walks in Darkness, *1 John 1. 6.* yea the light in him is darkness, *Mat. 6. 2, 3.*

Shall I ring his Knell, or read his Sentence, or found in his Ear, the terrible trump of God's Judgments, that one would think, should make both his Ears to tingle, and strike him into *Belshazzar's* fit, even to appale his countenance, and loose his joints and make his Knees finite one against another? Yet alas! he perceives me not, he hath no Ears to hear. Or shall I call up all the Daughters of Musick, and sing the Song of *Moses*, and of the Lamb? yet he will not be stirred. Shall I allure him with the joyful sound, and the lovely Song, and glad tidings of the Gospel? with the most sweet and inviting Calls, Comforts, Cordials, of the Divine Promises, so exceeding great and precious, it will not affect him savingly, unless I could
find

find him Ears, *Mat. 13. 15.* as well as tell him the news.

Shall I set before him the feast of fat things, the wine of Wisdom, the bread of God, the tree of Life, the hidden *Manna*? he hath no appetite for them, no mind to them, *1 Cor. 2. 14.* *Mat. 22. 5.* Should I press the choicest Grapes, the heavenly clusters of Gospel Priviledges, and drink to him in the richest wine of God's own Cellar, yea of his own side; or set before him the delicious Honey-comb of God's Testimonies, *Psalms. 19. 10.* alas, he hath no taste to discern them. Shall I invite the dead to arise and eat the banquet of their Funerals? No more can the dead in sin favour the holy Food wherewith the Lord of Life hath spread his Table.

What then shall I do? shall I burn the Brimstone of Hell at his Nostrils? or shall I open the box of Spikenard, very precious, that filleth the whole house of this Universe with its perfume, *Mark 14. 3.* *John 12. 8.* and hope, that the savour of Christ's Ointments, and the smell of his Garments will attract him? *Psalms. 45. 8.* Alas! dead sinners are like the dumb Idols, they have Mouths but they speak not; Eyes have they, but they see not; they have Ears, but they hear not; Noses have they, but they smell not; they have Hands, but they handle not; Feet have they, but they walk not: Neither speak they through their Throat, *Psalms 115. 5, 6, 7.* They are destitute of all spiritual sense and motion.

But let me try the sense that doth last leave us, and draw the Sword of the Word; yet lay at him while I will; yea though I choose my arrows out of God's quiver, and direct them to the heart, nevertheless he feelth it not; for how should he, being past feeling? *Eph. 4. 19.* So that though the wrath of God abideth on him, and the mountainous weight of so many thousand sins, yet he goes up and down as light as if nothing ailed him, *Rom. 7. 9.* In a word, he carries a dead soul in a living body, and his flesh is but the

walking Coffin of a corrupted mind, that is twice dead, *Jude* 12. rotting in the slime and putrefaction of noisom Lusts, *Mat.* 23. 27, 28.

Which way then shall I come at the miserable Objects that I have to deal with; who shall make the heart of stone to relent? *Zech.* 11. 12. or the lifeless Carcase to feel and move? That God, that is able of Stones to raise up Children unto *Abraham*, *Mat.* 3. 9. that raiseth the Dead, *2 Cor.* 1. 9. and melteth the Mountains, *Nah.* 1. 5. and strikes water out of the Flints, *Deut.* 8. 15. that loves to work like himself, beyond the hopes and belief of Man, that peopleth his Church with dry Bones, and planteth his Orchard with dry Sticks; he is able to do this. Therefore I bow my knee to the most high God, *Eph.* 3. 14. and as our Saviour prayed at the Sepulchre of *Lazarus*, *John* 11. 38, 41. and the Shunamite ran to the Man of God for her dead Child, *2 Kings* 4. 25. so doth your mourning Minister kneel about your Graves, and carry you in the arms of prayer to that God, in whom your help is found.

O thou all powerful *Jehovah*, that workest, and none can lett thee, that hast the keys of Hell and of Death, pity thou the dead souls that lie here intombed, and roll away the grave-stone, and say as to *Lazarus*, when already stinking, Come forth. Lighten thou this darkness, O inaccessible light, and let the day spring from on high, visit the darksome Region of the dead to whom I speak: for thou canst open the eyes, that death it self hath closed. Thou that formedst the ear, canst restore the hearing. Say thou to these ears, *Ephphatah*, and they shall be opened. Give thou eyes to see thine excellencies; a taste that may relish thy sweetness; a scent that may savour thine Ointments, a feeling that may sense the priviledge of thy favour, the burden of the wrath, the intolerable weight of unpardoned sin, and give thy servants command to prophesie to the dry bones, and let the effect of this prophesie, be, as of thy Prophet, when he prophesied the valley of dry bones into a living Army, exceeding great, *Ezek.* 37. 1, &c. The hand

hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the Valley, which was full of Bones; He said unto me, prophesie upon these Bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the Word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God unto these Bones, Behold I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live. And I will lay Sinews upon you, and will bring up Flesh upon you. and cover you with Skin, and put Breath in you, and ye shall live, and ye shall know that I am the Lord. So I prophesied as I was commanded, and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the Bones came together, Bone to his Bone. And when I beheld, Lo the Sinews and the Flesh came up upon them, and covered them above, but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesie unto the Wind, prophesie Son of Man, and say unto the Wind: Thus saith the Lord God, Come from the four Winds, O breath, and breath upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the Breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their Feet, an Exceeding Great Army.

But I must proceed, as I am able, to unfold that Misery, which I confess no Tongue can unfold; no Heart can sufficiently comprehend. Know therefore, that while thou art unconverted,

1. *The infinite God is engaged against thee.*

It is no small part of thy Misery, that thou art without God, Eph. 2. 12. How doth Micah run crying after the Dainties; *You have taken away my Gods, and what have I more?* Judges 18. 23, 24. O what a Mourning then must thou lift up, that art without God, that canst lay no claim to him, without daring Usurpation! Thou may'st say of God, as Sheba of David; *We have no part in David, neither have we inheritance in the Son of Jesse,* 2 Sam. 20. 1. How pitiful and piercing a moan is that of Saul in his extremity! *The Philistines are upon me, and God is departed from me,* 1 Sam. 28. 15. Sinners, but what will you do in the day of your Visitation? Whither will you

flee for help? Where will you leave your Glory? *Iſa.* 10. 3. What will you do when the *Philiftines* are upon you? When the World ſhall take its eternal leave of you; when you muſt bid your Friends, Houſes, Lands, farewel for evermore? What will you do then, I ſay, that have never a God to go to? Will you call on him, will you cry to him for help? Alas, he will not own you, *Prov.* 1. 28, 29. he will not take any knowledge of you, but ſend you packing, with an *I never knew you*, *Mat.* 7. 23. They that know what 'tis to have a God to go to, a God to live upon, they know a little, what a fearful Miſery it is to be without God. This made that holy Man cry out, *Let me have a God, or nothing. Let me know him and his will, and what will pleaſe him, and how I may come to enjoy him, or would I had never had an underſtanding to know any thing, &c.*

But thou art not only without God, but God is againſt thee, *Ezek.* 5. 8, 9. *Nah.* 2. 13. Oh if God would but ſtand a Neuter, though he did not own, nor help the poor Sinner, his caſe were not ſo deeply miſerable. Though God ſhould give up the poor Creature to the Will of all his Enemies, to do their worſt with him; though he ſhould deliver him over to the Tormentors, *Mat.* 18. 34. that Devils ſhould tear and torture him to their utmoſt Power and Skill, yet this were not half ſo fearful. But God will ſet himſelf againſt the Sinner; and believe it, *'Tis a fearful thing, to fall into the hands of the living God*, *Heb.* 10. 31. There's no Friend like him, no Enemy like him. As much as Heaven is above the Earth, Omnipotency above Impotency, Infinity above Nullity, ſo much more horrible is it to fall into the Hands of the living God, than into the paws of Bears or Lions, yea Furies or Devils? God himſelf will be thy tormentor; thy deſtruction ſhall come from the preſence of the Lord, *2 Theſſ.* 1. 9. *Tophet is deep and large, and the wrath of the Lord like a River of Brimſtone, doth kindle it*, *Iſa.* 30. 33: *If God be againſt thee,*
who

who shall be for thee? If one Man sin against another, the Judge shall judge him; but if a Man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat for him? 1 Sam. 2. 25. Thou, even thou, art to be feared; and who shall stand in thy sight, when once thou art angry? Psal. 76. 7. Who is that God, that shall deliver you out of his Hands? Dan. 3. 15. Can Mammon? Riches profit not in the day of Wrath, Prov. 11. 4. Can Kings, or Warriors? No, they shall cry to the Mountains and Rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the Face of him that sitteth on the Throne, and from the Wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of his Wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand? Rev. 6. 15, 16, 17.

Sinner, methinks this should go like a Dagger to thine Heart, to know that God is thine Enemy. Oh whither wilt thou go, where wilt thou shelter thee? There is no hope for thee, unless thou lay down thy Weapons, sue out thy Pardon, and get Christ to stand thy Friend, and make thy Peace. If it were not for this, thou mightest go into some howling Wilderness, and there pine in Sorrow; and run mad for anguish of Heart and horrible Despair. But in Christ there is a possibility of Mercy for thee, yea a proffer of Mercy to thee, that thou may'st have God to be more for thee, than he is now against thee. But if thou wilt not forsake thy Sins, nor turn thoroughly and to purpose, unto God, by a sound Conversion, the Wrath of God abideth on thee, and he proclaims himself to be against thee, as in the Prophet, Ezek. 5. 8. *Therefore, thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I, even I, am against thee.*

I. *His Face is against thee, Psal. 34. 16. The Face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them. Wo unto them whom God shall set his Face against. When he did but look upon the Host of the Egyptians, how terrible was the consequence? Ezek. 14. 8. I will set my Face against that Man, and will make him a sign, and Proverb, and will cut him off from the midst of my People, and you*

shall know that I am the Lord. 2. *His Heart is against thee. He hateth all the workers of Iniquity*, Psal. 5. 5. Man, doth not thine Heart tremble to think of thy being an object of God's hatred? *Jer. 15. 1. Tho' Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my Mind could not be towards this People; cast them out of my sight, Zech. 7. 8. My Soul loathed them, and their Souls also abhorred me.* 3. *His Hand is against thee*, 1 Sam. 12. 14, 15. *All his Attributes are against thee.*

First, *His Justice* is like a flaming Sword unsheathed against thee. *If I whet my glittering Sword, and my Hand take hold on Judgment, I will render Vengeance to mine Adversaries, and will reward them that hate me. I will make mine Arrows drunk with Blood, &c. Dent. 32. 40, 41. So exact is Justice, that 'twill by no means clear the Guilty, Exod. 34. 7. God will not discharge thee, he will not hold thee Guiltless, Exod. 20. 7. but will require the whole Debt in Person of thee; unless thou canst make a Scripture claim to Christ, and his Satisfaction. When the enlighthned Sinner looks on Justice, and sees the ballance in which he must be weighed, and the Sword by which he must be executed; he feels an Earthquake in his Breast. But Satan keeps this out of sight, and perswades the Soul, while he can, that the Lord is all made up of Mercy, and so lulls it asleep in Sin. Divine Justice is very strict; it must have satisfaction to the utmost Farthing; it denounceth Indignation and Wrath, Tribulation and Anguish, to every Soul that doth Evil, Rom. 2. 8, 9. It curseth every one that continueth not in every thing that is written in the Law to do it, Gal. 3. 10. The Justice of God to the unpardoned Sinner, that hath a sense of his Misery, is more terrible than the sight of the Bayliff or Creditor to the Bankrupt Debtor, or than the sight of the Judge, and Bench, to the Robber, or of the Irons and Gibbet to the guilty Murderer. When Justice sits upon Life and Death, Oh what dreadful work doth it make with the wretched Sinner? Bind him hand and Foot, cast him*

him into outer Darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of Teeth, Mat. 22. 13. Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting Fire, Mat. 25. 41. This is the terrible Sentence that Justice pronounceth. Why Sinner, by this severe Justice must thou be tryed; and as God liveth, this killing Sentence shalt thou hear, unless thou repent and be converted.

Secondly, *The Holiness of God is full of antipathy against thee*, Psal. 5. 4, 5. He is not only angry with thee, (so he may be with his own Children) but he hath a fixed, rooted, habitual displeasure against thee; he *loaths thee*, Zech. 11. 8. and *what is done by thee*, though for Substance commanded by him, Isa. 1. 14. Mal. 1. 10. As if a Man should give his Servant never so good Meat to dress; yet if he should mingle filth, or poison with it, he would not touch it. God's Nature is infinitely contrary to Sin, and so he cannot but hate a Sinner out of Christ.

O what a Misery is this, to be out of the Favour, yea, under the Hatred of God? Eccles. 5. 4. Hos. 9. 15. that God can as easily lay aside his Nature, and cease to be God, as not be contrary to thee, and *detest thee*, except thou be changed and renewed by Grace! O Sinner, how darest thou to think of the bright and radiant Sun of purity, upon the Beauties, the glory of Holiness that is in God! *The Stars are not pure in his sight*, Job 25. 5. *He humbleth himself to behold things that are done in Heaven*, Psal. 113. 6. O those light and sparkling Eyes of his! what do they espy in thee? And thou hast no interest in Christ neither, that he should plead for thee. Methinks I should hear thee crying out astonished, with the Bethshemites, *Who shall stand before this holy Lord God?* 1 Sam. 6. 10.

Thirdly, *The power of God is mounted like a mighty Cannon against thee*. The glory of God's power is to be displayed in the wonderful confusion and destruction of them *that obey not the Gospel*, 2 Theff. 1. 8, 9. He will make *his Power known in them*, Rom. 9. 22. How mightily

mightily he can torment them: For this end he raiseth them up, *that he might make his Power known*, Rom. 9. 17. O Man, art thou able to make thy party good with thy Maker? No more than a silly Reed against the Cedars of God, or a little Cock-boat against the rumbling Ocean; or the Childrens Bubbles against the blustering Winds.

Sinner, the power of God's anger is against thee, *Psal. 90. 11.* and Power and Anger together make fearful work. *I* were better thou hadst all the World in arms against thee, than to have the Power of God against thee. There is no escaping his Hands, no breaking his Prison: *The thunder of his Power, who can understand?* Job 26. 14. Unhappy Man, that shall understand it by feeling it! *If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand. He is wise in Heart, and mighty in Strength; who hath hardned himself against him, and prospered? Which removeth the Mountains, and they know it not, which overturneth them in his anger: Which shaketh the Earth out of her place, and the Pillars thereof tremble: Which commandeth the Sun, and it riseth not, and sealeth up the Stars. Behold he taketh away; who can hinder him? Who will say unto him, What dost thou? If God will not withdraw his anger, the proud helpers do stoop under him,* Job. 9. 3, 4, 5, 6, &c. And art thou a fit match for such an Antagonist? O consider this, *you that forget God, lest he tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver you,* Psalm 50. 22. Submit to Mercy. Let not Dust and Stubble stand it out against the Almighty. Set not Briars and Thorns against him in Battle, lest he go through them, and consume together; *but lay hold on his Strength, that you may make Peace with him,* Isa. 27. 4, 5. *Wo to him that striveth with his Maker,* Isa. 45. 9.

Fourthly, *The Wisdom of God is set to ruin thee.* He hath ordained his Arrows, and prepared the instruments of Death, and made all things ready, *Psal. 7. 12, 13.* His Counsels are against thee, to contrive thy

thy destruction, *Jer.* 18. 11. He laughs in himself, to see how thou wilt be taken and ensnared in the evil day, *Psal.* 37. 13. *The Lord shall laugh at him, for he seeth that his day is coming.* He sees how thou wilt come down mightily in a Moment; how thou wilt wring thine Hands, and tear thine Hair, and eat thy Flesh, and gnash thy Teeth, for anguish and astonishment of Heart, when thou seest thou art fallen remedilessly into the pit of Destruction.

Fifthly, *The truth of God is sworn against thee,* *Psal.* 95. 11. If he be true and faithful thou must perish, if thou goest on, *Luke* 13. 3. Unless he be false of his Word, thou must die, except thou repent, *Ezek.* 33. 11. If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself, *2 Tim.* 2. 13. That is, he is faithful to his Threatnings as well as Promises, and will shew his faithfulness in our Confusion, if we believe not. God hath told thee, as plain as it can be spoken, *That if he wash thee not, thou hast no part in him,* *John* 13. 8. *That if thou livest after the Flesh, thou shalt die,* *Rom.* 8. 13. *That except thou be converted, thou shalt in no wise enter into the Kingdom of Heaven,* *Mat.* 18. 3. And he abideth faithful, he cannot deny himself. Beloved, as the immutable faithfulness of God in his Promise and Oath, afford *Believers strong Consolation,* *Heb.* 6. 18. so they are to *Unbelievers* for strong Consternation and Confusion. O Sinner, tell me, what shift dost thou make to think of all the Threatnings of God's Word, that stand upon Record against thee? Dost thou believe their Truth, or not? If not, thou art a wretched Infidel, and not a Christian; and therefore give over the Name and Hopes of a Christian. But if thou dost believe them, O Heart of steel that thou hast, that canst walk up and down in quiet, when the Truth and Faithfulness of God is engaged to destroy thee! That if God Almighty can do it, thou shalt surely perish and be damned. Why Man, the whole Book of God doth testify against thee, while thou remainest unsanctified;

fied: It condemns thee in every Leaf, and is to thee, like *Ezekiel's Roll*, written within and without with Lamentation, and Mourning, and Woe, *Ezek. 2. 10.* And all this shall surely come upon thee, and overtake thee, *Deut. 28. 15.* except thou Repent. *Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but one jot, or tittle of this Word shall never pass away, Mat. 5. 18.*

Now put all this together, and tell me, if the case of the Unconverted be not deplorably miserable. As we read of some Persons, that had bound themselves in an Oath, and in a Curse to kill *Paul*: So thou must know, O Sinner, to thy terror, that all the Attributes of the Infinite God are bound in an Oath to destroy thee, *Heb. 3. 18.* O Man, what wilt thou do? Whither wilt thou fly? If God's Omniscieny can find thee, thou shalt not escape. If the true and faithful God will save his Oath, perish thou must, except thou Believe and Repent. If the Almighty hath power to torment thee, thou shalt be perfectly miserable in Soul and Body to all Eternity, unless it be prevented by thy speedy Conversion.

II. *The whole Creation of God is against thee.* The whole Creation (*saieth Paul*) *groaneth and travelleth in pain, Rom. 8. 22.* But what is it that the Creation groaneth under? Why, the fearful abuse that it is subject to, in serving the Lusts of unsanctified Men. And what is it that the Creation groaneth for? Why, for Freedom and Liberty from this Abuse; for *the Creature is very unwillingly subject to this Bondage, Rom. 8. 19, 20, 21.* If the unreasonable and inanimate Creatures had Speech and Reason, they would cry out under it, as Bondage unsufferable, to be abused by the Ungodly, contrary to their Natures, and the ends that the great Creator made them for. It is a passage of an eminent Divine: "The Liquor that the Drunk-
"ard drinketh, if it had reason as well as a Man, to
"know how shamefully 'tis abused & spoiled, it would
"groan in the Barrels against him, it would groan
"in

“ in the Cup against him, groan in his Throat, in
 “ his Belly, against him. It would fly in his Face,
 “ if it could speak. And if God should open the
 “ Mouths of the Creatures, as he did the Mouth of
 “ *Balaam's Ass*, the proud Man's Garments on his Back
 “ would groan against him. There is never a Crea-
 “ ture, but if it had reason to know how 'tis abused,
 “ till a Man be converted, it would groan against
 “ him. The Land would groan to bear him, the
 “ Air would groan to give him breathing, their
 “ Houses would groan to lodge them, their Beds
 “ would groan to ease them, their Food to nourish
 “ them, their Clothes to cover them, and the Crea-
 “ ture would groan to give them any help and Com-
 “ fort, so long, as they live in Sin against God.
 Thus far he. Methinks this should be a Terror to an
 unconverted Soul, to think, that he is a burden to
 the Creation, *Luke 13. 7. Cut it down, why cumbereth*
it the Ground? If the poor inanimate Creatures could
 but speak, they would say to the Ungodly, as *Moses*
 to *Israel*, *Must we fetch you Water out of the Rock, ye*
Rebels? Numb. 20. 10. Thy Food would say, “ Lord,
 “ must I nourish such a Wretch as this, and yield
 “ forth my Strength for him to dishonour thee with-
 “ al? No, I will choak him rather, if thou wilt
 “ give me Commission. The *very air* would say,
 “ Lord, must I give this Man breath, to set his
 “ Tongue against Heaven, and scorn thy People, and
 “ vent his Pride and Wrath, and filthy Communi-
 “ cation, and belch out Oaths and Blasphemy against
 “ thee? No, if thou but say the word, he shall be
 “ breathless for me. His poor Beast would say, Lord,
 “ must I carry him upon his wicked designs? No,
 “ I will break his Bones, I will end his days rather,
 “ if I may have but leave from thee. A wicked Man,
 the Earth groans under him, and Hell groans for him,
 till Death satisfies both, and unburdens the Earth,
 and stops the mouth of Hell with him. While the
 Lord of Hosts is against thee, be sure the Hosts of the
 Lord

Lord are against thee, and all the Creatures, as it were, up in Arms, till upon a Man's Conversion, the Controversie being taken up between God and him, he makes a Covenant of Peace with the Creatures for him, *Job* 5. 22, 23, 24. *Hos.* 2. 18, 19, 20.

III. *The roaring Lion hath his full power upon thee;* 1 *Pet.* 5. 8. Thou art fast in the paw of that Lion, that is greedy to devour: In the *snare of the Devil, led Captive by him at his Will,* 2 *Tim.* 2. 26. This is the Spirit that worketh in the Children of Disobience, *Eph.* 2. 2. His Drudges they are, and his Lulls they do. He is the Ruler of the darkness of this World, *Eph.* 6. 12. That is, of ignorant Sinners that live in Darkness. You pity the poor *Indians*; that worship the Devil for their God, but little think that 'tis your own case. Why, 'tis the common Misery of all the un-sanctified, that the Devil is *their God*; 2 *Cor.* 4. 4. Not that they do intend to do him Homage and Worship, they will be ready to defie him, and him that should say so by them; but all this while they serve him, and come and go at his Beck, and live under his Government. *His Servants ye are, to whom ye yield your selves to obey,* *Rom.* 6. 16. Oh how many then will be found the real Servants of the Devil; that take themselves for no other than the Children of God? He can no sooner offer a sinful Delight, or Opportunity for your unlawful Advantage, but you embrace it. If he suggest a Lie, or prompt you to Revenge, you readily obey. If he forbid you to Read, or Pray, you hearken to him, and therefore his Servants you are. Indeed he lies behind the Curtain, he acts in the dark, and Sinners see not who setteth them on work; but all the while he leads them in a String. Doubtless the Liar intends not a service to Satan, but his own Advantage: Yet 'tis he that stands in the Corner unobserved, and putteth the thing into his Heart, *Acts* 5. 3. *John* 8. 44. Questionless *Judas*, when he sold his Master for Money, and the *Chaldeans* and *Sabeans*, when they plundered

Job, intended not to do the Devil a pleasure, but to satisfy their own covetous Thirst: Yet 'twas he that actuated them in their wickedness, *John* 13. 27. *Job* 1. 12, 15, 17. Men may be very Slaves and common drudges for the Devil, and never know it; nay they may please themselves in the thoughts of a happy Liberty, 2 *Pet.* 2. 19.

Art thou yet in Ignorance, and not turned from darkness to Light? Why thou art under the power of Satan, *Acts* 26. 18. Dost thou live in the ordinary and wilful practice of any known Sin? Know that thou art of the Devil, 1 *John* 3. 8. Dost thou live in Strife, or Envy, or Malice? Verily, he is thy Father, *John* 8. 40, 41. O dreadful case! However Satan may provide his slaves with *divers Pleasures*, *Tit.* 3. 3. yet it is but to toll them into endless Perdition. The Serpent comes with the Apple in his Mouth, O but (with *Eve*) thou seest not the deadly sting in his Tail. He that is now thy Tempter, will be one day thy Tormentor. O that I could but give thee to see how black a Master thou servest? how filthy a Drudgery thou dost; how merciless a Tyrant thou gratifiest, all whose pleasure is to set thee on work to make thy Perdition and Damnation sure, and to heat the Furnace hotter and hotter, in which thou must burn *for millions of millions of Ages*.

IV. *The guilt of all thy Sins lies like a Mountain upon thee.* Poor Soul! Thou feelest it not, but this is that which seals thy Misery upon thee. While unconverted, none of thy Sins are blotted out, *Acts* 3. 19. They are all upon the score against thee: Regeneration and Remission are never separated; the un sanctified are unquestionably unjustified and unpardoned, 1 *Cor.* 6. 11. 1 *Pet.* 1. 2. *Heb.* 9. 14. Beloved, its a fearful thing to be in Debt, but above all in God's Debt: For there is no Arrest so formidable as his; no Prison so horrible as his. Look upon an enlightened Sinner, who feels the weight of his own guilt;
Oh

Oh how frightful are his looks, how fearful are his Complaints? His Comforts are turned into Wormwood, and his Moisture into Drought, and his Sleep departeth from his Eyes. He is a Terror to himself and all that are about him, and is ready to Envy the very Stones that lie in the Street, because they are senseless, and feel not his Misery, and wishes he had been a Dog, or a Toad, or a Serpent rather than a Man; because then Death had put an end to his Misery, whereas now it will be but the beginning of that which will know no ending.

How light soever you may make of it now, you will one day find the guilt of unpardoned Sin to be a heavy burden. This is a Millstone, that whosoever falleth upon it shall be broken; but upon whomsoever it shall fall it shall *grind him to Powder*, Mat. 21. 44. What work did it make with our Saviour? It pressed the very Blood (to a wonder) out of his Veins, and broke all his Bones: And if it *did this in the green Tree, what will it do in the dry.*

Oh think of thy case in time. Canst thou think of that threat without Trembling, *Ye shall die in your Sins*, John 8. 24. Oh better were it for thee to die in a Goal, die in a Ditch, in a Dungeon, than die in thy Sins. If Death, as it will take away all thy other Comforts, would take away thy Sins too, it were some mitigation. But thy Sins will follow thee, when thy Friends leave thee, and all worldly Enjoyments shake hands with thee: Thy Sins will not die with thee, 2 Cor. 5. 10. Rev. 20. 12. as a Prisoners other Debts will: But they will to Judgment with thee, there to be thine Accusers; and they will to Hell with thee, there to be thy Tormentors. Better to have so many Fiends and Furies about thee, than thy Sins to fall upon thee, and fasten in thee. Oh the work that these will make thee! O look over thy Debts in time! How much art thou in the Books of every one of God's Laws? How is every one of God's Commandments ready to arrest thee, and take thee by the

the Throat for innumerable Bonds that it hath upon thee? What wilt thou do then, when they shall altogether lay in against thee? Hold open the Eyes of Conscience to consider this, that thou may'st despair of thy self, and be driven to Christ, and *fly for Refuge, to lay hold upon the hope that is set before thee,* Heb. 6. 18.

V. *Thy raging Lusts do miserably enslave thee.* While unconverted thou art a very Servant to Sin, it reigns over thee, and holds thee under its dominion, till thou art brought within the bond of God's Covenant, *John* 8. 34, 36. *Tit.* 3. 3. *Rom.* 6. 12, 14. *Rom.* 6. 16, 17. Now there's no such Tyrant as Sin. Oh the filthy and fearful work, that it doth ingage its Servants in! Would it not pierce a Man's Heart to see a Company of poor Creatures drudging and toiling, and all to carry together Faggots and Fuel for their own burning? Why, this is the employment of Sins drudges. Even while they bless themselves in their unrighteous Gains; while they sing and swill in Pleasures, they are but treasuring up Wrath and Vengeance for their Eternal Burnings; they are but laying in Powder and Bullets, and adding to the Pile of *Tophet*, and flinging in Oyl to make the Flame rage the fiercer. Who would serve such a Master, whose work is Drudgery, and whose wages is Death? *Rom.* 6. 23.

What a woful Spectacle was that poor Wretch possessed with the Legion? Would it not have pitied thine Heart to have seen him among the Tombs, cutting, and wounding of himself? *Mark* 5. 5. This is thy case, such is thy work. Every stroke is a thrust at thine Heart, *1 Tim.* 6. 10. Conscience indeed is now asleep, but when Death and Judgment shall bring thee to thy Senses, then wilt thou feel the raging smart and anguish of every Wound. The convinced Sinner is a sensible instance of the miserable bondage of Sin. Conscience flies upon him and tells him what the end of these things will be;

and yet such a Slave is he to his Lusts, that on he must, though he see it will be his endless Perdition; and when the Temptation comes, Lust gets the Bit in his Mouth, breaks all the Cords of his Vows and Promises, and carries him headlong to his own destruction.

VI. *The Furnace of eternal Vengeance is heated ready for thee, Isa. 30. 33.* Hell and Destruction open their Mouths upon thee, they gape for thee, they groan for thee, *Isa. 5. 14*, waiting as it were with a greedy Eye, as thou standest upon the Brink, when thou wilt drop in. If the Wrath of a Man may be as the roaring of a Lion, *Prov. 20. 2. more heavy than the Sand, Prov. 27. 3.* What is the Wrath of the infinite God? If the burning Furnace heated in *Nebuchadnezzar's* fiery Rage, when he commanded it to be made yet Seven times hotter, were so fierce as to burn up even those that drew near it, to throw the Three Children in, *Dan. 3. 19, 22.* How hot is that burning Oven of the Almighty's Fury? *Mal. 4. 1.* Surely this is Seventy times Seven more fierce. What thinkest thou, O Man, of being a Faggot in Hell to all Eternity? Can thine Heart endure, or can thine Hands be strong in the day that I shall deal with thee, saith the Lord of Hosts? *Ezek. 22. 14.* Canst thou dwell with everlasting Burnings? Canst thou abide the consuming Fire? *Isa. 33. 4.* When thou shalt be as a glowing Iron in Hell, and thy whole Body and Soul shall be as perfectly possessed by God's burning Vengeance, as the fiery sparkling Iron, when heated in the fiercest Forge? Thou canst not bear God's Whip, how then wilt thou endure his Scorpions? Thou art even crushed, and ready to wish thy self dead, under the weight of his Finger, how then wilt thou bear the weight of his Loins? The most patient Man that ever was, did curse the Day that ever he was born, *Job 3. 1.* and even wish Death to come and end his Misery, *Job 7. 15, 16.* when God did but let out one little drop of his Wrath. How then wilt thou endure

endure when God shall pour out all his Vials, and set himself against thee to torment thee? when he shall make thy Conscience the Tunnel, by which he will be pouring his burning Wrath into thy Soul for ever; and when he shall fill all thy Powers as full of Torment, as they be now full of Sin? When immortality shall be thy Misery, and to die the Death of a Brute, and be swallowed into the gulf of Annihilation, shall be such a Felicity, as the whole Eternity of Wishes, and an Ocean of Tears shall never purchase? Now thou canst put off the Evil Day, and canst laugh and be merry, and forget the Terror of the Lord, 2 Cor. 5. 11. But how wilt thou hold out, or hold up, when God will cast thee into a *bed of Torments*, Rev. 2. 22. and make thee to *lye down in Sorrows*? Isa. 50. 11. When Roarings and Blasphemy shall be thine only Musick, and the Wine of the Wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the Cup of his Indignation, shall be thine only drink? Rev. 14. 10. When thou shalt draw in Flames for thy Breath, and the horrid stench of Sulphur shall be thy only perfume? In a word, when the Smoak of thy Torment shall ascend for ever and ever, and thou shalt have no rest, Night nor Day, no rest in thy Conscience, no ease in thy Bones, but thou shalt be an Execration, and an Astonishment, and a Curse, and a Reproach for evermore? Jer. 42. 18.

O Sinner, stop here, and consider. If thou art a Man, and not a senseless block, consider. Bethink thy self where thou standest, why upon the very brink of his Furnace. As the Lord liveth, and thy Soul liveth, there is but a step between thee and this, 1 Sam. 20. 3. Thou knowest not when thou lyest down, but thou mayest be in before the Morning; thou knowest not when thou risest, but thou mayest drop in before the Night. Darest thou make light of this? Wilt thou go on in such a dreadful Condition, as if nothing ailed thee? If thou puttest it

off, and sayest, this doth not belong to thee; look again over the foregoing Chapter, and tell me the truth, are none of these black Marks found upon thee? Do not blind thine Eyes, do not deceive thy self: see thy Misery while thou mayst prevent it. Think what 'tis to be a vile Out-cast, a damned Reprobate, a Vessel of Wrath, into which the Lord will be pouring out his tormenting Fury, while he hath a Being, *Rom. 9. 22.*

Divine Wrath is a *fierce*, Deut. 32. 22. *devouring*, Isa. 33. 14. *everlasting*, Mat. 25. 41. *unquenchable Fire*, Mat. 3. 12. and thy Soul and Body must be the Fuel upon which it will be feeding for ever, unless thou consider thy ways, and speedily turn to the Lord by a sound Conversion. They that have been only singed by this Fire, and had no more but the Smell thereof passing upon them; O what amazing Spectacles have they been! Whose Heart would not have melted, to have heard *Spiras* out-cries; to have seen *Chaloner*, that monument of Justice, worn to Skin and Bones, blaspheming the God of Heaven, cursing himself, and continually crying out, *O Torture, Torture, Torture, O Torture, Torture*, as if the flames of Wrath had already taken hold on him? To have heard *Rogers* crying out, *I have had a little of Pleasure, but now I must to Hell for evermore*; wishing but for this mitigation, That God would but let him lie burning for ever behind the back of that Fire (on the Hearth) and bringing in this sad Conclusion still, at the end of whatever was spoken to him, to afford him some hope, *I must to Hell, I must to the Furnace of Hell, for millions of millions of Ages*? O if the fears and forethoughts of the Wrath to come be so terrible, so intolerable, what is the feeling of it?

Sinner, 'tis but in vain to flatter you, this would be but to toll you into the unquenchable Fire: Know ye from the Living God, that here you must lie, with these Burnings must you dwell, till Immortality die, and Immutability change, till Eternity run out,
and



and Omnipotency is not longer able to torment, except you be in good earnest renewed throughout by sanctifying Grace.

VII. *The Law dischargeeth all its threats and curses at thee, Gal. 3. 10. Rom. 7.* O how dreadfully doth it thunder? It spits Fire and Brimstone in thy Face. Its words are as drawn Swords, and as the sharp arrows of the mighty, it demands satisfaction to the utmost, and cries Justice, Justice. It speaks Blood and War, and Wounds, and Death against thee. O the Execrations, and Plagues, and Deaths, that this murdering piece is loaded with (read *Dent. 28. 15, 16, &c.*) and thou art the mark at which this shot is levelled. O Man, away to the strong hold, *Zech. 9. 12.* away from thy Sins, hast to the Sanctuary, the City of Refuge, *Heb. 6. 18.* even the Lord Jesus Christ, hide thee in him, or else thou art lost without any hope of recovery.

VIII. *The Gospel it self bindeth the Sentence of eternal damnation upon thee, Mark 16. 16.* If thou continuest in thine impenitent and unconverted Estate, know, that the Gospel denounceth a much sorer Condemnation, than ever would have been for the transgression only of the first Covenant. Is it not a dreadful Case to have the Gospel it self fill its Mouth with Threats, and Thunder, and Damnation? To have the Lord to roar from *Mount Sion* against thee? *Joel. 3. 16.* Hear the terror of the Lord. He that believeth not shall be damned. *Mark 16. 16.* Except ye repent ye shall all perish, *Luke 13. 3.* This is the condemnation that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, *John 3. 19.* He that believeth not, the wrath of God abideth on him, *John 3. 36.* If the word spoken by Angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward, how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation? *Heb. 2. 2, 3.* He that despised *Moses's Law* died without mercy; Of how much sorer punishment shall he be thought worthy,

that hath trampled under foot the Son of God? Heb. 10. 28, 29.

Application. And is this true indeed? Is this thy misery? Yea, 'tis as true as God is. Better open thine Eyes and see it now, while thou maist remedy it, than blind and harden thy self, till, to thine eternal Sorrow, thou shalt feel what thou wouldst not believe; and if it be true, what dost thou mean to loiter, and linger in such a case as this?

Alas for thee, poor Man, how effectually hath Sin undone thee, and deprived and despoiled thee even of thy Reason to look after thine own everlasting good? O miserable Wretch, what stupidity and senselessness hath surprized thee? O! let me knock up and awake this Sleeper. Who dwells within the walls of this Flesh? Is there ever a Soul here, a rational, understanding Soul? Or; Art thou only a walking Ghost, a senseless Lump? Art thou a reasonable Soul, and yet so far brutified, as to forget thy self immortal, and to think thy self to be as the Beasts that perish? Art thou turned into Flesh, that thou favourest nothing but gratifying the sense, and making provision for the Flesh? Or else having reason to understand the eternity of thy future Estate, dost thou yet make light of being everlastingly miserable? which is to be so much below a brute, as 'tis worse to act against Reason, than to act without it. O unhappy Soul, that wast the glory of Man, the mate of Angels, and the image of God! that wast God's Representative in the World, and hadst the supremacy amongst the Creatures, and the Dominion over thy Makers Works! Art thou now become a slave to Sense; a servant to so base an Idol, as thy Belly, for no higher felicity than to fill thee with the wind of Man's applause, or heaping together a little refined Earth, no more suitable to thy spiritual, immortal Nature, than the Dirt, and Sticks? O, why dost thou not bethink thee where thou shalt be for ever? Death is at hand, *The Judge is even at the door, Jam.*

5. 9. Yet a little while and *time shall be no longer*, *Rev. 10. 5, 6.* And wilt thou run the hazard of continuing in such a State, in which if thou be overtaken, thou art irrecoverably miserable.

Come then, arise, and attend thy nearest concerns. Tell me, Whither art thou going? What, Wilt thou live in such a Course, wherein every act is a step to perdition? And thou dost not know, but the next night, thou maist make thy Bed in Hell? O! if thou hast a spark of Reason, consider and turn, and hearken to thy very friend, who would therefore shew thee thy present Misery, that thou mightest in time make thine escape, and be eternally happy.

Hear what the Lord saith; *Fear ye not me, saith the Lord? Will ye not tremble at my presence? Jer. 5. 22.* O Sinners! Do ye make light of the wrath to come? *Mat. 3. 7.* I am sure there is a time coming, when you will not make light of it. Why, the very *Devils do believe and tremble, Jam. 2. 19.* What! you more hardned than they? Will you run upon the edge of the Rock? Will you play at the hole of the Asp? Will you put your hand upon the Cockatrice's Den? Will you dance about the Fire, till you are burnt? or dally with devouring wrath, as if you were at a point of indifferency, whether you did escape it, or endure it? O madness of folly! *Solomon's mad-man*, that casteth Fire-brands and Arrows, and Death, and saith, Am I not in jest? *Prov. 26. 18.* nothing is so distracted as the wilful Sinner, *Luke 15. 17.* that goeth on in his unconverted Estate without Sense, as if nothing ailed him. The Man that runs on the Cannons Mouth, that sports with his Blood, or lets out his Life in a Frolick, is sensible, Sober and Serious, to him that goeth on still in his Trespases, *Psalms. 68. 21.* *For he stretcheth out his hand against God, and strengthneth himself against the Almighty. He runneth upon him, even upon his neck, upon the thick Bosses of his Buckler, Job 15. 25, 26.* Is it wisdom to dally with the second Death, or to venture into the lake that

burneth with Fire and Brimstone? *Rev.* 21. 8. as if thou wert but going to wash thee, or swim for thy Recreation? Wilt thou, as it were, fetch a compass, and jump into eternal Flames, as the Children thro' the Bon-fire? What shall I say? I can find out no Expression, no Comparison whereby to set forth the dreadful distraction of that Soul, that shall go on in Sin.

Awake, awake, *Eph.* 5. 14. O Sinner, arise and take thy flight. There is but one door that thou maist flie by, and that is the strait door of Conversion and the new Birth. Unless thou turn unfeignedly from all thy Sins, and come into Jesus Christ, and take him for the Lord thy Righteousness, and walk in him in holiness and newness of Life; as the Lord liveth, it is not more certain that thou art now out of Hell, than that thou shalt without fail be in it, but a few days and nights from hence. O set thine heart to think of thy Case. Is not thine everlasting misery or welfare, that which doth deserve a little consideration? Look again over the miseries of the unconverted. If the Lord hath not spoken by me, regard me not. But if it be the very Word of God, that all this misery lies upon thee, what a case art thou in? Is it for one that hath his Senses, to live in such a condition, and not to make all possible expedition for preventing his utter ruin? O Man, who hath *bewitched thee*, *Gal.* 3. 1. that in the matters of the present Life thou shouldst be wise enough to forecast thy business, foresee thy danger, and prevent thy mischief, but in matters of everlasting consequence shouldst be slight and careless, as if they little concerned thee? Why, Is it nothing to thee to have all the Attributes of God engaged against thee? Canst thou do well without his favour? Canst thou escape his hands, or endure his vengeance? Dost thou hear the creation groaning under thee, and Hell groaning for thee, and yet think thy case good enough? Art thou in the paw of the Lion, under the
power

power of Corruption, in the dark and noisom Prison, fetter'd with thy Lusts, working out thine own damnation; and is not this worth the considering? Wilt thou make light of all the terrours of the Law; of all its curses and thunderbolts; as if they were but the report of the Childrens Pot-guns, or thou wert to war with their Paper Pellets? Dost thou laugh at Hell and Destruction, or canst thou drink the envenomed Cup of the Almighty's Fury, as if it were but a common potion?

Gird up now thy Loyns like a Man, for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me, *Job* 40. 7. Art thou such a *Leviathan*, as that the scales of thy Pride shall keep thee from thy Makers coming at thee? Wilt thou esteem his Arrows as Straw, and the Instruments of Death as rotten Wood? Art thou chief of all the Children of Pride, even that thou shouldst count his Darts as Stubble, and laugh at the shaking of his Spear? Art thou made without fear, and contemnest his barbed Irons? *Job* 41. Art thou like the Horse that paweth in the Valley, and rejoiceth in his strength, who goeth out to meet the armed Men? Dost thou mock at fear, and art not affrighted, neither turnest back from God's Sword; when his quiver rattleth against thee, the glittering Spear and the Shield? *Job* 39. 21, 22, 23. Well, if the threats and calls of the Word will not affright nor awaken thee, I am sure Death and Judgment will. O what wilt thou do when the Lord cometh forth against thee, and in his Fury falleth upon thee, and thou shalt feel what thou readeest? If when *Daniel's* Enemies were cast into the Den of Lions, both they and their Wives and their Children, the Lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces, ere ever they came at the bottom of the Den, *Dan.* 6. 24. what shall be done with thee, when thou fallest into the hands of the living God? When he shall gripe thee in his Iron arms, and grind and crush thee to a thousand pieces in his Wrath.

O! do not then contend with God. Repent and be converted, so none of this shall come upon thee, *Isa. 55. 6, 7. Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

C H A P. VI.

Containing DIRECTIONS for Conversion.

Mark 10. 17. And there came one, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do, that I may inherit eternal Life?

BEfore thou readest these Directions, I advise thee, yea, I charge thee before God, and his holy Angels, to resolve to follow them (as far as Conscience shall be convinced of their agreeableness to God's Word, and thy Estate) and call in his assistance and blessing that they may succeed, And as I have sought the Lord, and consulted his Oracles what advice to give thee, so must thou entertain it, with that awe, reverence, and purpose of obedience, that the Word of the living God doth require.

Now then attend. *Set thine heart unto all that I shall testify unto thee in this day; for it is not a vain thing, it is your life, Deut. 32. 46.* This is the end of all that hath been spoken hitherto, to bring you to set upon turning, and making use of God's means for your Conversion. I would not trouble you, nor torment you before the time with the forethoughts of your eternal Misery, but in order to your making your escape. Were you shut up under your present misery, without remedy, it were but Mercy (as one speaks) to let you alone, that you might take in that little poor comfort, that you are capable of here in this World. But you may yet be happy, if you do not wil-

wilfully refuse the means of your recovery. Behold, I hold open the door unto you, arise take your flight; I set the way of Life before you, walk in it, and you shall live and not die, *Dent. 30. 19. Jer. 9. 16.* It pities me to think, you should be your own Murderers, and throw your selves headlong, when God and Men cry out to you, as *Peter*, in another Case, to his Master, *Spare thy self.* A noble Virgin, that attended the Court of *Spain*, was wickedly ravished by the King; and hereupon exciting the Duke her Father to revenge, he called in the Moors to his help, who when they had executed his design, miserably wasted and spoiled the Country, which this Virgin laying so exceedingly to heart, shut her self up in a Tower belonging to her Father's House, and desired her Father and Mother might be called forth; and bewailing to them her own wretchedness, that she should have occasioned so much misery and desolation to her Country, for the satisfying of her revenge, she told them she was resolved to be avenged upon her self. Her Father and Mother besought her to pity her self and them, but nothing could prevail, but she took her leave of them, and threw her self off the Battlements, and so perished before their Faces.

Just thus is the wilful destruction of ungodly Men. The God that made them beseecheth them, and cryeth out to them, as *Paul* to the distracted Jaylor, when about to murder himself, *Do thy self no harm.* The Ministers of Christ forewarn them and follow them, and fain would have them back. But alas! No expostulations, nor obtestations will prevail; but Men will hurl themselves into perdition, while pity it self looketh on.

What shall I say? Would it not grieve a Person of any humanity, if in the time of a reigning Plague, he should have a receipt (as one said well) that would infallibly cure all the Country, and recover the most hopeless Patients, and yet his Friends and Neighbours should die by the hundreds about him, because
they

they would not use it? Men and Brethren, though you carry the certain Symptoms of Death in your Faces, yet I have a receipt that will cure you all, that will cure infallibly. Follow but these few Directions, and if you do not then win Heaven, I will be content to lose it.

Hear then, O Sinner, and as ever thou wouldst be converted and saved, embrace this following counsel.

Direct. I. *Set it down with thy self, as an undoubted truth, that it is impossible for thee ever to get to Heaven in this thy unconverted state.* Can any other but Christ save thee? And he tells thee he will never do it, except thou be regenerated and converted, *Mat. 18. 3. John 3. 3.* Doth he not keep the Keys of Heaven? And canst thou get in without his leave, as thou must, if ever thou comest thither in thy natural condition, without a sound and thorough renovation?

Direct. II. *Labour to get a thorough sight and lively sense and feeling of thy sins.* Till Men are weary and heavy laden, and pricked at the heart, and stark sick of Sin, they will not come to Christ in his way for ease and cure, nor to purpose enquire, *What shall we do?* *Mat. 11. 28. Acts 2. 37. Mat. 9. 12.* They must set themselves down for dead Men before they will come unto Christ, that they may have Life, *John 5. 40.* Labour therefore to set all thy Sins in order before thee. Never be afraid to look upon them, but let thy spirit make diligent search, *Psalms. 77. 6.* Enquire into thine Heart and into thy Life, enter into a thorough examination of thy self, and of all thy ways, *Psalms. 119. 59.* that thou maist make a full discovery, and call in the help of God's Spirit in the sense of thine own inability hereunto, for it is his proper work to *convince of sin*, *John 16. 8.* Spread all before the face of thy Conscience, till thine heart and eyes be set abroad. Leave not striving with God, and thine own soul, till it cry out under the sense of thy Sins,

as the enlightned Jaylor, *What must I do to be saved?* *Acts* 16. 30. To this purpose,

Meditate of the numerousness of thy sins. David's Heart failed when he thought of this, and considered that he had *more sins than hairs*, *Psalms*. 40. 12. This made him to cry out upon *the multitudes of God's tender mercies*, *Psalms*. 51. 1. The loathsome Carcass doth not more hatefully swarm with crawling Worms, than an un sanctified Soul with filthy Lusts. They fill the Head, the Heart, the Eyes and Mouth of him. Look backward, where was ever the place, what was ever the time, in which thou didst not Sin? Look inward, what part or power canst thou find in Soul or Body, but it is poisoned with Sin? What Duty dost thou ever perform into which poison is not shed? O how great is the sum of thy Debts, who hast been all thy Life long running upon the hooks, and never didst, nor canst pay off one penny; Look over the Sin of thy Nature, and all its cursed brood, the Sins of thy Life. Call to mind thy Omissions, Commissions, the Sins of thy Thoughts, of thy Words, of thine Actions, the Sins of thy Youth, the Sins of thy Years, &c. Be not like a desperate Bankrupt, that is afraid to look over his Books. Read the Records of Conscience carefully. These Books must be opened sooner or later, *Rev.* 20. 12.

Meditate upon the aggravations of thy sin, as they are the grand enemies against the God of thy life, against the life of thy soul; in a word, they are the publick enemies of all mankind. How do David, Ezra, Daniel and the good Levites aggravate their Sins, from the consideration of their injuriousness to God, their opposition to his good and righteous Laws, the mercies, the warnings that they were committed against, *Neh.* 9. *Dan.* 9. *Ezra.* 9. O the work that Sin hath made in the World. This is the Enemy that hath brought in Death, that hath robbed and enslaved Man, that hath blacked the Devil, that hath digged Hell, *Rom.* 5. 12. • *Pet.* 2. 4. *John* 8. 34. This is the Enemy that hath
turned

turned the Creation upside down, and sown dissention between Man and the Creatures, between Man and Man, yea between Man and himself, setting the sensitive part against the Rational, the Will against the Judgment, Lust against Conscience, yea worst of all, between God and Man, making the lapsed Sinner both hateful to God, and a hater of him, *Zech. 11. 8.* O Man, how canst thou make so light of Sin? This is the Traytor that sucked the Blood of the Son of God, that sold him, that mocked him, that scourged him, that spit in his Face, that digged his Hands, that pierced his Side, that pressed his Soul, that mangled his Body, that never left, till it had bound him, condemned him, nailed him, crucified him, and put him to open Shame, *Ilsa. 53. 4, 5, 6.* This is that deadly poyson, so powerful of operation, as that one drop of it shed upon the root of Mankind, hath corrupted, spoiled, and poisoned, and undone his whole race at once, *Rom. 5. 18, 19.* This is the common Butcher, the bloody Executioner, that hath killed the Prophets, burnt the Martyrs, murdered all the Apostles, all the Patriarchs, all the Kings and Potentates, that hath destroyed Cities, swallowed Empires, butchered and devoured whole Nations. Whatever was the Weapon that 'twas done by, Sin was it that did the Execution, *Rom. 6. 23.* dost thou yet think it but a small thing? If *Adam* and all his Children could be digged out of their Graves, and their Bodies piled up to Heaven, and an Inquest were made, what matchless murderer were guilty of all this Blood; it would be all found in the skirts of Sin. Study the nature of Sin, till thy Heart be brought to fear and loath it. And meditate on the aggravations of thy particular Sins, how thou hast sinned against all God's Warnings, against thine own Prayers, against Mercies, against Corrections, against clearest Light, against freest Love, against thine own Resolutions, against Promises, Vows, Covenants of better Obedience, &c. charge thy Heart home with these things, till

till it blush for shame, and be brought out of all good Opinion of it self, *Ezra. 9. 6.*

Meditate upon the desert of sin: It cryeth up to Heaven: It calls for Vengeance, *Gen. 18. 21.* Its due wages is Death and Damnation. It pulls the curse of God upon the Soul and Body, *Gal. 3. 10. Deut. 28.* The least sinful word or thought, lays thee under the infinite wrath of God Almighty, *Rom. 2. 8, 9. Mat. 12. 36.* O what a load of Wrath, what a weight of Curses, what treasure of Vengeance have all the millions of thy Sins then deserved? *Rom. 2. 5. John 3. 36.* O Judge thy self, that the Lord may not judge thee, *1 Cor. 11. 31.*

Meditate upon the deformity, and defilement of sin. 'Tis as black as Hell, the very image and likeness of the Devil drawn upon the Soul, *1 John 3. 8, 10.* It would more affright thee, to see thy self in the hateful deformity of thy Nature, than to see the Devil. There is no Mire so unclean, no Vomit so loathsome, no Carcass or Carrion so offensive, no Plague or Leprosie so noisom as Sin, in which thou art all inrolled, and covered with its odious Filth, whereby thou art rendred more displeasing to the pure and holy Nature of the glorious God, than the most filthy Object, composed of whatever is hateful to all thy senses, can be to thee, *Job 15. 15, 16.* Couldst thou take up a Toad into thy Bosom? Couldst thou cherish it, and take delight in it? Why, thou art as contrary to the pure and perfect Holiness of the Divine Nature, and as loathsome as that is to thee, *Mat. 23. 33.* till thou art purified by the blood of Jesus, and the power of renewing Grace.

Above all other sins fix the eye of Consideration on these two. 1. The sin of thy nature. 'Tis to little purpose to lop the Branches, while the root of original Corruption remains untouched. In vain do Men lade out the streams, when the Fountain is running, that fills up all again. Let the Axe of thy repentance, (with *David's*) go to the root of Sin, *Psalms. 51. 5.* Study how

how deep, how close, how permanent is thy natural pollution? How universal it is, till thou dost cry out with *Paul's* feeling, upon thy *body of death*, *Rom. 7. 24.* Look into all thy parts and powers, and see what unclean Vessels, what Sties, what Dunghils, what Sinks they are become. *Hæu miser, quid sum? vas sterquilini, concha putredinis; plenus fetore & horrore. August, Solil. c. 2.* The Heart is never soundly broken, till thoroughly convinced of the heinousness of original Sin. Here fix thy thoughts. This is that, that makes thee backward to all good, prone to all evil, *Rom. 7. 15.* that sheds Blindness, Pride, Prejudice, unbelief into thy Mind, enmity, unconstancy, obstinacy, into thy Will; inordinate heats and colds into thy Affections; insensibleness, benumbedness, unfaithfulness into thy Conscience; slipperiness into thy Memory; and in a word, hath put every wheel of thy soul out of Order, and made it of an habitation of Holiness to become a very Hell of Iniquity, *Jam. 3. 6.* This is that, that hath defiled, corrupted, perverted all thy Members, and turned them into Weapons of Unrighteousness, and Servants of Sin, *Rom. 6. 19.* that hath filled the head with carnal and corrupt designs, *Mic. 2. 1.* the hand with sinful Practices, *Isa. 1. 15.* the Eyes with wandring and wantonness, *2 Pet. 2. 14.* the Tongue with deadly Poison, *James 3. 8.* that hath opened the Ears to Tales, Flattery, and filthy Communication, and shut them against the instruction of Life, *Zech. 7. 11, 12.* and hath rendred thy Heart a very Mint and Forge for Sin, and the cursed womb of all deadly conceptions, *Mat. 15. 16.* So that it poureth forth its wickedness without ceasing, *2 Pet. 2. 14.* even as naturally, freely, and unweariedly, as a Fountain doth pour forth its Waters, *Jer. 6. 7:* or the raging Sea doth cast forth Mire and Dirt, *Isa. 57. 20.* And wilt thou yet be in love with thy self, and tell us any longer of thy good Heart? O never leave meditating on this desperate contagion of original Corruption, till with *Ephraim* thou

thou bemoan thy self, *Jer. 31. 18.* and with deepest shame and sorrow *smite on thy breast* as the *Publican, Luke 18. 13.* and with *Job* abhor thy self, and repent in dust and ashes, *Job 42. 6, 2.*

The particular evil that thou art most addicted to. Find out all its Aggravations. Set home upon thy Heart all God's Threatnings against it. Repentance drives before it the whole herd, but especially sticks the arrow in the beloved sin, and singles this out, above the rest, to run it down, *Psalms. 18. 23.* O labour to make this Sin odious to thy Soul, and double thy Guards, and thy resolutions against it, because this hath, and doth most dishonour God, and endanger thee.

Direct. III. Strive to affect thy heart with a deep sense of thy present misery. Read over the foregoing Chapter again, and again, and get it out of the Book into thine Heart. Remember when thou liest down, that for ought thou knowest, thou mayst awake in Flames, and when thou risest up, that by the next Night thou mayst make thy Bed in Hell. Is it a light matter to live in such a fearful Case? to stand tottering upon the brink of the bottomless Pit, and to live at the mercy of every Disease, that if it will but fall upon thee, will send thee forthwith into the burnings? Suppose thou sawest a condemned Wretch hanging over *Nebuchadnezzar's* burning fiery Furnace, by nothing but a twine Thread, which were ready to break every Moment, would not thine Heart tremble for such an one? Why thou art the Man: This is thy very Case, O Man, Woman, that readest this, if thou be yet unconverted: What if the thread of thy Life should break? (Why, thou knowest not but it may be the next night, yea the next moment) where wouldst thou be then? Whither wouldst thou drop? Verily upon the crack but of this Thread, thou fallest into the Lake that burneth with Fire and Brimstone, where thou must lie scalding and sweltering in a fiery Ocean, while God hath a Being.

if thou die in thy present Case. And doth not thy Soul tremble as thou readest? Do not thy Tears bedew the Paper, and thy Heart throb in thy Bosom? Dost thou not yet begin to smite on thy Breast, and bethink thy self what need thou hast of a change? O what is thy Heart made of? Hast thou not only lost all regard to God, but art without any love and pity to thy self?

O study thy Misery, till thy Heart do cry out for Christ, as earnestly as ever a drowning Man did for a Boat, or the wounded for a Chirurgeon. Men must come to see the danger, and feel the smart of their deadly Sores and Sicknes, or else Christ will be to them a *Physician of no value*, *Mat. 9. 12*. Then the Man-slayer hastens to the City of Refuge, when pursued by the avenger of Blood. Men must be even forced and fired out of themselves, or else they will not come to Christ. 'Twas distress and extremity, that made the Prodigal think of returning, *Luke 15. 16, 17*. While *Laodicea* thinks her self Rich, increased in Goods, in need of nothing, there is little hope. She must be deeply convinced of her wretchedness, blindness, poverty, nakedness, before she will come to Christ for his Gold, Raiment, Eye-salve, *Rev. 3. 17, 18*. Wherefore hold the Eyes of Conscience open, amplify thy Misery as much as possible. Do not flie the sight of it, for fear it should fill thee with terror. The sense of thy misery is but as it were the suppuration of the Wound, which is necessary to the Cure. Better fear the Torments that abide thee now, than feel them hereafter.

Direct. IV. Settle it upon thine heart, that thou art under an everlasting inability ever to recover thy self. Never think thy praying, reading, hearing, confessing, amending will do the Cure. These must be attended; but thou art undone if thou retest in them *Rom. 10. 3*. Thou art a lost Man, if thou hopest to escape drowning upon any other Plank, but Jesus Christ, *Acts 4. 12*. Thou must unlearn thy self, and

resound

renounce thine own Wisdom, thine own Righteousness, thine own Strength, and throw thy self wholly upon Christ, as a Man that swimmeth casteth himself upon the Water, or else thou canst not escape. While Men trust in themselves, and establish their own Righteousness, and have confidence in the Flesh, they will not come savingly to Christ, *Luke 18. 9. Phil. 3. 3.* Thou must know thy gain to be but loss and dung, thy Strength but weakness, thy Righteousness rags and rottenness, before there will be an effectual closure between Christ and thee, *Phil. 3. 7, 8, 9. 2 Cor. 3. 5. Isa. 64. 6.* Can the lifeless Carcass shake off its Grave-cloths, and loose the bonds of Death? Then mayst thou recover thy self, who art dead in Trespasses and Sins, and under an impossibility of serving thy maker, (acceptably) in this condition, *Rom. 8. 8. Heb. 11. 6.* Therefore when thou goest to Pray, or Meditate, or to do any of the Duties, to which thou art here directed, go out of thy self, call in the help of the Spirit, as despairing to do any thing pleasing to God, in thine own Strength. Yet neglect not the Duty; but lie at the Pool, and wait in the way of the Spirit. While the *Eunuch* was reading, then the Holy Ghost sent *Philip* to him, *Acts 8. 28, 29.* when the Disciples were praying, *Acts 4. 31.* when *Cornelius* and his Friends were hearing, *Acts 10. 44.* then the Holy Ghost fell upon them, and filled them all. Strive to give up thy self to Christ: Strive to Pray, strive to Meditate, strive an hundred and an hundred times, try to do it as well as thou canst, and while thou art endeavouring in the way of thy Duty, the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and help thee to do, what of thy self thou art utterly unable unto, *Prov. 1. 23.*

Direct. V. *Forthwith renounce all thy sins.* If thou yield thy self to the contrary practice of any Sin, thou art undone, *Rom. 6. 15.* in vain dost thou hope for Life by Christ, except thou depart from iniquity, *2 Tim. 2. 19.* Forsake thy Sins, or else thou canst

not find Mercy, *Prov.* 28. 13. Thou canst not be married to Christ except divorced from Sin. Give up the Traitor, or you can have no Peace with Heaven. Cast the head of *Sheba* over the Wall: Keep not *Dalilah* in thy lap. Thou must part with thy Sins, or with thy Soul. Spare but one Sin, and God will not spare thee. Never make excuses, thy sins must die, or thou must die for them, *Psalms.* 68. 21. If thou allow of one Sin, though but a little, a secret one, though thou mayst plead Necessity, and have a hundred shifts and excuses for it, the life of thy Soul must go for the life of that Sin, *Ezek.* 18. 21. and will it not be dearly bought?

O Sinner, hear and consider. If thou wilt part with thy Sins, God will give thee his Christ; Is not this a fair exchange? I testify unto thee this day, that if thou perish, it is not because there was never a Saviour provided, nor Life tendered, but because thou preferredst (with the *Jews*) the Murderer before thy Saviour, Sin before Christ, and lovedst darkness rather than light, *John* 3. 19. Search thy Heart therefore with Candles, as the *Jews* did their Houses for Leaven, before the passover: Labour to find out thy Sins, enter into thy Closet, and consider, What evil have I lived in? What duty have I neglected towards God? What sin have I lived in against my Brother? And now strike the Darts through the heart of thy Sin, as *Joab* did through *Abshalom's*, *2 Sam.* 18. 14. Never stand looking upon thy Sin, nor rolling the Morsel under thy Tongue. *Job* 20. 12. but spit it out as poyson, with fear and detestation. Alas, what will thy Sins do for thee, that thou shouldst stick at parting with them? They will flatter thee, but they will undo thee, and cut thy Throat, while they smile upon thee, and poison thee while they please thee, and arm the Justice and wrath of the infinite God against thee. They will open Hell for thee, and pile up Fuel to burn thee. Behold the Gibbet that they have prepared for thee.

O serve them like *Haman*, and do upon them the Execution they would else have done upon thee. Away with them, Crucifie them, and let Christ only be Lord over thee.

Direct. VI. *Make a solemn choice of God for thy portion and blessedness*, Deut. 26. 17. With all possible devotion and veneration avouch the Lord for thy God. Set the World with all its Glory, and Paint, and Gallantry, with all its pleasures and promotions on the one hand, and set God with all his infinite Excellencies, and Perfections on the other, and see that thou do deliberately make thy choice, *Josh. 24. 15*. Take up thy rest in God, *John 6. 68*. Set thee down under his Shadow, *Cant. 2. 3*. Let his Promises and Perfections turn the scale against all the World. Settle it upon thine Heart, that the Lord is an all-sufficient Portion, that thou canst not be miserable, while thou hast a God to live upon, take him for thy Shield and exceeding great Reward. God alone is more than all the World. Content thy self with him. Let others carry the preferments and glory of the World, place thou thy happiness in his favour, and the light of his Countenance, *Psalms. 4. 6, 7*.

Poor Sinner, thou art fallen off from God, and hast engaged his Power, and Wrath against thee. Yet know that of his abundant Grace, he doth offer to be thy God again in Christ, *2 Cor. 6. 17. 18*. What sayest thou Man? Wilt thou have the Lord for thy God? Why, take this Counsel, and thou shalt have him. Come to him by his Christ, *John 14. 6*. Renounce the Idols of thine own Pleasures, Gain, Reputation, *1 Thes. 1. 9*. Let these be pulled out of the Throne, and set God's interest uppermost in thine Heart. Take him as God, to be chief in thine Affections, Estimations, Intentions; for he will not endure to have any set above him, *Rom. 1. 25*. *Psalms. 73. 25*. In a word, thou must take him in all his *Personal Relations*, and in all his *Essential Perfections*.

First, *In all his Personal Relations.* God the Father must be taken for thy Father, *Jer. 3. 4, 19, 22.* O come to him with the Prodigal, *Father, I have sinned against Heaven, and in thy sight, and am not worthy to be called thy Son, but since of thy wonderful mercy, thou art pleased to take me, (that am I of my self a Dog, a Swine, a Devil) to be thy child, I solemnly take thee for my Father, commend my self to thy care, and trust to thy providence, and cast my burden on thy shoulders. I depend on thy provision, and submit to thy corrections, and trust under the shadow of thy wings, and hide in thy chambers, and fly to thy name. I renounce all confidence in my self, I repose my confidence in thee, I depose my concerns with thee. I will be for thee, and for no other.* Again, God the Son must be taken for thy Saviour, for thy Redeemer and Righteousness, *John 1. 12.* He must be accepted as the only way to the Father, and the only means of Life, *Heb. 7. 25.* O then put off the rayment of thy Captivity, on with the wedding Garment, and go and marry thy self to Jesus Christ. Lord I am thine, and all that I have, my body, my soul, my name, my estate. I send a bill of divorce to my other lovers. I give my heart to thee. I will be thine undividedly, thine everlastingly. I will set thy name on all I have, and use it only as thy goods, as thy loan during thy leave, resigning all to thee. I will have no King but thee: Reign thou over me. Other Lords have had dominion over me: but now I will make mention of thy name only, and do here take an oath of fealty to thee, promising and vowing to serve, and love, and fear thee, above all competitors. I disavow mine own righteousness, and despair of ever being pardoned and saved for mine own duties, or graces, and lean only on thine all-sufficient sacrifice and intercession, for pardon, and life, and acceptance before God. I take thee for mine only guide and instructor, resolving to be led and directed by thee, and to wait for thy counsel, and that thine shall be the casting voice with me. Lastly, God the Spirit must be taken for thy sanctifier, *Rom. 8. 2, 14. Gal. 5. 16, 18.* for thine Advocate, thy Counsellor,

fellor, thy Comforter, the teacher of thine ignorance, the pledge and earnest of thine inheritance, *Rom. 8. 26. Psalm. 73. 24. John 14. 16. Eph. 1. 14. John 14. 26. Eph. 4. 30.* Awake thou Northwind, and come thou South, and blow upon my Garden, *Cant. 4. 16.* Come thou Spirit of the most high: here is a house for thee, here is a Temple for thee. Here do thou rest for ever; dwell here, and rest here. Lo, I give up the possession to thee, full possession. I send thee the keys of my heart, that all may be for thy use, that thou mayst put thy goods, thy grace into every Room. I give up the use of all to thee, that every faculty, and every member may be thine instrument, to work righteousness, and do the will of my Father which is in Heaven.

Secondly, *In all his essential Perfections.* Consider how the Lord hath revealed himself to you in his Word: Will you take him as such a God? O Sinner, here's the blesseddest News that ever came to the Sons of Men: The Lord will be thy God, *Gen. 17. 7. Rev. 21. 3.* if thou wilt but close with him in his Excellencies. Wilt thou have the merciful, the gracious, the sin-pardoning God, to be thy God? O yes, (saith the Sinner,) I am undone else. But he farther tells thee, I am the holy and sin-hating God. If thou wilt be owned as one of my People, thou must be holy, *1 Pet. 1. 16.* holy in Heart, holy in Life. Thou must put away all thine iniquities, be they never so near, never so natural, never so necessary to the maintaining thy fleshly interest. Unless thou wilt be at a defiance with Sin, I cannot be thy God. Cast out the leaven, put away the evil of thy doings, cease to do evil, learn to do well, or else I can have nothing to do with thee, *Isa. 1. 16, 17, 18.* Bring forth mine Enemies, or there is no peace to be had with me. What doth thine heart answer? *Lord I desire to have thee as such a God. I desire to be holy as thou art holy, to be made partaker of thy holiness. I love thee, not only for thy goodness and mercy, but for thy holiness and purity. I take thy holiness for my happiness. O! be to me a foun-*

tain of holiness: set on me the stamp and impress of thy holiness, I will thankfully part with all my sins at thy command. My wilful sins I do forthwith forsake; and for my infirmities that I cannot get rid of, though I would, I will strive against them in the use of thy means. I detest them, and will pray and war against them, and never let them have quiet rest in my soul. Beloved, whosoever of you will thus accept of the Lord for his God, he shall have him.

Again, he tells you; I am the *All-sufficient God*, *Gen. 17. 1.* Will you lay all at my feet, and give it up to my dispose, and take me for your only Portion? Will you own and honor mine All-sufficiency? Will you take me as your Happiness and Treasure, your Hope and Bliss? I am a Sun and a Shield, all in one: Will you have me for your all? *Gen. 15. 1. Psalm. 84. 11.* Now what dost thou say to this? Doth thy mouth water after the Onions and Flesh-pots of Egypt? Art thou loath to exchange thy earthly Happiness, for a part in God, and though thou wouldst be glad to have God and the World too, yet canst thou not think of having him, and nothing but him, but hadst rather take up with the Earth below, if God would but let thee keep it, as long as thou wouldst? This is a fearful sign. But now if thou art willing to sell all for the Pearl of great price, *Mat. 13. 46.* If thine Heart answer, *Lord I desire no other portion but thee. Take the Corn, and the Wine, and the Oil whoso will, so I may have the Light of thy Countenance. I pitch upon thee for my happiness, I gladly venture my self on thee, and trust my self with thee. I set my hopes in thee, I take up my rest with thee, let me hear thee say, I am thy God, thy Salvation, and I have enough, all I wish for. I will make no terms with thee, but for thy self. Let me but have thee sure. let me be able to make my claim, and see my Title to thy self, and for other things, I leave them to thee, give me more or less, any thing or nothing, I will be satisfied in my God. Take him thus, and he is thine OWN.*

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Again, He tells you; I am *the Sovereign Lord*: If you will have me for your God, you must give me the Supremacy, *Mat. 6. 24.* I will not be an underling. You must not make me a second to Sin, or any worldly Interest. If you will be my People, I must have the rule over your. You must not live at your own list. Will you come under my Yoke? Will you bow to my Government? Will you submit to my Discipline? to my Word? to my Rod? Sinner, What sayest thou to this? *Lord, I had rather be at thy command, than live at mine own list, I had rather have thy will to be done, than mine, I approve of and consent to thy Laws, and account it my priviledge to lie under them. And though the flesh rebel, and often breaks bounds, I am resolved to take no other Lord but thee. I willingly take the Oath of thy Supremacy, and acknowledge thee for my Leige Sovereign, and resolve all my days, to pay the tribute of Worship, Obedience, and Love, and Service to thee, and to live to thee, as the end of my Life.* This is a right accepting of God.

To be short, he tells you; I am *the true and faithful God*. If you will have me for your God, you must be content to trust me, *2 Tim. 1. 12. Prov. 3. 5.* Will you venture your selves upon my word, and depend on my faithfulness, and take my bond for your Security? Will you be content to follow me in Poverty, and Reproach, and Affliction here, and to see much going out, and little coming in, and to tarry till the next World for your Preferment? *Mat. 9. 21.* I deal much upon trust, will you be content to labour, and suffer, and to tarry for your returns till the Resurrection of the Just? *Luke 14. 14.* The womb of my Promise will not presently bring forth; will you have the patience to wait? *Heb. 10. 36.* Now Beloved, what say you to this? Will you have this God for your God? Will you be content to live by Faith, and trust him for an unseen Happiness, an unseen Heaven, an unseen Glory? Do your Hearts answer, *Lord we will venture our selves upon thee, we*
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commit our selves to thee: We roll upon thee, we know whom we have trusted, we are willing to take thy word, we will prefer thy promises before our own possessions, and the hopes of Heaven before all the enjoyments of the Earth. We will wait thy leisure. What thou wilt here, so that we may have but thy faithful promise for Heaven hereafter. If you can in truth, and upon deliberation, thus accept of God, he will be yours. Thus there must be, in a right conversion to God, a closing with him suitable to his Excellencies. But when Men close with his Mercy, but yet love Sin, hating Holiness and Purity, or will take him for their Benefactor, but not for their Sovereign; or for their Patron, but not for their Portion, this is no thorow, and therefore no sound Conversion.

Direct. VII. *Accept of the Lord Jesus in all his Offices, with all his inconveniences, as thine.* Upon these terms Christ may be had. Sinner, thou hast undone thy self, and art plunged into the Ditch of most deplorable misery, out of which thou art never able to climb up. But Jesus Christ is able and ready to help thee, and he freely tenders himself to thee, *Heb. 7. 25. John 7. 37.* Be thy Sins never so many, ne're so great, of ne're so long continuance, yet thou shalt be most certainly pardoned and saved, if thou dost not wretchedly neglect the offer that in the name of God is here made unto thee. The Lord Jesus calleth unto thee, to *look unto him and be saved, Isa. 45. 22. to come unto him, and he will in no wise cast thee out, John 6. 37.* Yea he is a suitor to thee, and *beseecheth thee to be reconciled, 2 Cor. 5. 20.* he cryeth in the Streets, he knocketh at the door, he wooeth thee to accept of him, and live with him, *Prov. 1. 20. Rev. 3. 20.* If thou diest 'tis because thou *wouldst not come to him for Life, John 5. 40.* Now accept of an offered Christ, and thou art made for ever. Now give up thy consent to him, and the match is made, all the World cannot hinder it. Do not stand off because of thine unworthiness. Man, I tell thee, nothing in all the World can undo thee

thee, but thine unwillingness. Speak, Man, art thou willing of the match? Wilt thou have Christ in all his Relations to be thine; thy King, thy Priest, thy Prophet? Wilt thou have him, with all his inconveniences? Take not Christ hand over head, but sit down first, and count the cost. Wilt thou lay all at his Feet? Wilt thou be content to run all hazards with him? wilt thou take thy lot with him, fall where it will? Wilt thou deny thy self, take up thy Cross, and follow him? Art thou deliberately, understandingly, freely, fixedly, determined to cleave to him in all times, and conditions? If so, my Soul for thine, thou shalt never perish, *John* 3. 16. but art passed from Death to Life. Here lies the main point of thy Salvation, that thou be found in thy Covenant-closure with Jesus Christ, and therefore if thou love thy self, see that thou be faithful to God and thy Soul here.

*Direct. VIII. Resign up all thy powers and faculties, and thy whole interest to be his. They gave their own selves unto the Lord, 2 Cor. 8. 5. Present your bodies as a living Sacrifice, Rom. 12. 1. The Lord seeks not yours, but you: Resign therefore thy body with all its members to him, and thy Soul with all its powers, that he may be glorified in thy Body and in thy Spirit, which are his, 1 Cor. 6. 20. In a right closure with Christ, all the Faculties give up to him. The Judgment subscribes, Lord thou art worthy of all acceptation, chief of ten thousand: Happy is the man that findeth thee. All the things that are to be desired, are not to be compared with thee, Prov. 3. 13, 14, 15. The understanding lays aside its corrupt reasonings and cavils, and its prejudices against Christ and his ways. It is now past questioning and disputing, and casts it for Christ against all the World. It concludes, It's good to be here, and see such a treasure in this Field, such value in this Pearl, as is worth all, *Mat.* 13. 44. O, here's the richest bargain that ever I made, here's the richest prize that ever man was offered, here's the most sovereign remedy that ever mercy prepared; he is worthy*
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of my esteem, worthy of my choice, worthy of my love, worthy to be embraced, adored, admired for evermore, Rev. 5. 12. *I approve of his Articles, his Terms are Righteous and reasonable, full of Equity and Mercy.* Again, The will resigns: It stands no longer wavering, nor wishing and woulding, but is peremptorily determin'd: *Lord thy love hath overcome me, thou hast won me, and thou shalt have me: Come in Lord, to thee I freely open; I consent to be saved in thine own way, thou shalt have any thing, thou shalt have all, let me have but thee.* The memory gives up to Christ: *Lord here is a Store-house for thee. Out with this trash, lay in thy Treasure. Let me be a granary, a repository of thy truths, thy promises, thy providences.* The Conscience comes in; *Lord I will ever side with thee, I will be thy faithful Register. I will warn when the sinner is tempted, and smite when thou art offended. I will witness for thee, and judge for thee, and guide into thy ways, and will never let sin have quiet in this soul.* The Affections also come in to Christ. *O faith Love, I am sick of thee, O faith Desire, Now I have my longing: Here's the satisfaction I sought for: Here's the desire of Nations: Here's bread for me, and balm for me, all that I want.* Fear bows the Knee with Awe and Veneration. *Welcome Lord, to thee will I pay my homage: Thy word and thy rod shall command my motions. Thee will I reverence and adore, before thee will I fall down and worship.* Grief likewise puts in; *Lord thy displeasure and thy dishonour, thy Peoples Calamities, and mine own Iniquities shall be that, that shall set me abroad, I will mourn when thou art offended, I will weep when thy cause is wounded: Anger likewise comes in for Christ: Lord, nothing so enrages me, as my folly against thee, that I should be so befooled and bewitched as to hearken to the flatteries of sin, and temptations of Satan against thee.* Hatred too will side with Christ: *I protest mortal enmity with thine Enemies, that I will never be Friends with thy Foes, I vow an immortal quarrel with every sin.*

I will give no quarter, I will make no peace. Thus let all thy powers give up to Jesus Christ.

Again, Thou must give up thy whole Interest to him. If there be any thing that thou keepest back from Christ, it will be thine undoing, *Luke 14. 33.* Unless thou wilt forsake all (in preparation and resolution of thy heart) thou canst not be his Disciple; Thou must hate Father and Mother, yea and thine own Life also in comparison of him, and as far as it stands in competition with him, *Mat. 10. 37. Luke 14. 26, 27, &c.* In a word, thou must give him thy self, and all that thou hast without reservation, or else thou canst have no part in him.

Direct. IX. *Make choice of the Laws of Christ as the rule of thy Words, Thoughts and Actions, Psalm. 119. 30.* This is the true Converts Choice. But here remember these three Rules. 1. *You must chuse them all.* There's no coming to Heaven by a partial Obedience; Read *Psalm. 119. 6, 128, 160. Ezek. 18. 21.* None may think it enough to take up with the cheap and easie part of Religion, and let alone the Duties that are costly and self-denying, and grate upon the interest of the Flesh. You must take all or none. A sincere Convert, though he makes most Conscience of the greatest Sins and weightiest Duties; yet he makes true Conscience of little Sins, and of all Duties, *Psalm. 119. 6, 113. Mat. 23. 23.* 2. *For all times; For Prosperity, & for Adversity; whether it rain or shine.* A true Convert is resolved in his way, he will stand to his Choice, and will not set his back to the Wind, and be of the religion of the times. *I have stuck to thy testimonies, I have inclined my heart to perform thy statutes always, even to the end. Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever, Psalm. 119. 31, 111, 117, 44, 93. I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.* 3. *This must not be done hand over head, but deliberately and understandingly.* That disobedient Son said, *I go sir, but he went not, Mat. 24. 30.* How fairly did they promise? *All that the Lord our God shall*
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Speak unto thee, we will do it; and it's like they spake as they meant, but when it came to tryal it was found that there was not such a heart in them, as to do what they had promised, *Deut. 5. 27, 29.* If you would be sincere in closing with the Laws and Ways of Christ. First, *Study the meaning, and latitude, and compass of them.* Remember, that they are very spiritual: They reach the very Thoughts and Inclinations of the Heart; so that if you will walk by this Rule, your very thoughts and inward motions must be under Government. Again, That they are very strict and self-denying, quite contrary to the grain of your natural Inclinations, *Mat. 16. 24.* You must take the strait Gate, the narrow way, and be content to have the Flesh curbed from their Liberty it Desires, *Mat. 7. 14.* In a word, that they are very large: For *thy Commandment is exceeding broad*, *Psalms. 119. 96.* Secondly, *Rest not in generals* (for there's much deceit in that) *but bring down thy heart to the particular commands of Christ.* Those Jews in the Prophet, seemed as well resolved as any in the World, and call'd God to witness, that they meant as they said: But they stuck in generals. When God's Command crosses their Inclination, they will not obey, *Jer. 42. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.* compared with *Chap. 43. ver. 2.* Take the Assemblies larger Catechism, and see their excellent and most compendious Exposition of the Commandments, and put thy heart to it. Art thou resolved in the strength of Christ, to set upon the conscientious practice of every Duty that thou findest to be there required of thee, and so set against every sin that thou findest there forbidden? This is the way to be found in God's Statutes, that thou maist never be ashamed, *Psalms. 119. 80.* Thirdly, *Observe the special duties that thy heart is most against, and the special sins that 'tis most inclin'd unto, and see whether it be truly resolved to perform the one and forgo the other.* What sayest thou to thy bosom Sin, thy gainful Sin? What sayest thou to thy costly and hazardous, and flesh-displeasing Duties?

Duties? If thou haltest here, and dost not resolve, by the Grace of God, to cross thy flesh, and put to it, thou art unsound, *Psalms*. 18. 23. *Psalms*. 119. 6.

Direct. X. *Let all this be compleated in a solemn Covenant between God and thy Soul, Psalm*. 119. 106. *Neh.* 10. 29. For thy better help therein, take these few Directions.

First, Set apart some time, more than once to be spent in secret before the Lord.

1. *In seeking earnestly his special assistance, and gracious acceptance of thee.*

2. *In considering distinctly all the terms or conditions of the Covenant, expressed in the form hereafter proposed.*

3. *In searching thine heart, whether thou art sincerely willing to forsake all thy sins, and to resign up thy self body and soul unto God, and his service, to serve him in holiness and righteousness, all the days of thy life.*

Secondly, Compose thy Spirit into the most serious frame possible, suitable to a transaction of so high importance.

Thirdly, Lay hold on the Covenant of God, and rely upon his Promise of giving Grace and Strength, whereby thou may'st be enabled to perform thy Promise. Trust not to thine own strength, to the strength of thine own Resolutions, but take hold on his strength.

Fourthly, Resolve to be faithful, having engaged thine Heart, opened thy Mouth, and subscribe with thy Hand unto the Lord, resolve in his strength never to go back.

Lastly, Being thus prepared, on some convenient time set apart for the purpose, set upon the work, and in the most solemn manner possible, as if the Lord were visibly present before thine Eyes, fall down on thy Knees, and spreading forth thine hands towards Heaven, open thine Heart to the Lord in these or the like words.

O Most dreadful God, for the Passion of thy Son, I beseech thee accept of thy poor Prodigal now prostrating himself at thy Door; I have fallen from thee by mine Iniquity, and am by Nature a Son of Death, and a thousand fold more the Child of Hell by my wicked Practice: But of thine infinite Grace thou hast promised Mercy to me in Christ if I will but turn to thee with all my Heart: Therefore upon the Call of thy Gospel, I am now come in, and throwing down my Weapons, submit my self to thy Mercy.

The terms of our Conversion are either from which or to which.

And because thou requirest, as the Condition of my Peace with Thee, that I should put away mine Idols, and be at defiance with all thine Enemies, which I acknowledge I have wickedly sided with against Thee, I here from the bottom of my Heart renounce them all, firmly Covenanting with thee not to allow my self in any known Sin, but conscientiously to use all the means

The terms from which we must turn, Sin, Satan, the World and our own Righteousness, which must be thus renounced.

that I know thou hast prescribed, for the death and utter destruction of all my Corruptions. And whereas I have formerly inordinately and idolatrously let out my Affections upon the World, I do here resign up my Heart to Thee that madest it, humbly protesting before thy Glorious Majesty, that it is the firm resolution of my Heart, and that I do unfeignedly desire Grace from Thee, that when thou shalt call me hereunto, I may practise this my resolution through thy assistance, to forsake all that is dear unto me in this World, rather than to turn from thee to the ways of Sin; and that I will watch against all its Temptations, whether of Prosperity, or Adversity, lest they should withdraw my Heart from thee: Beseeching thee

thee also to help me against the temptations of Satan, to whose wicked Suggestions I resolved by thy grace never to yield my self a Servant. And because my own Righteousness is but menstruous Rags, I renounce all confidence therein, and acknowledge that I am of my self a hopeless, helpless, undone Creature, without Righteousness or Strength.

And forasmuch as thou hast of thy bottomless Mercy offered most graciously to me wretched Sinner, to be again my God through Christ, if I would accept of thee: I call Heaven and Earth to record this Day, that I do here solemnly avouch thee for the Lord my God,

The terms to which we must turn, are either ultimate or mediate.

and with all possible veneration, bowing the neck of my Soul under the feet of thy most Sacred Majesty, I do here take thee, Lord *Jehovah*, Father, Son, & Holy Ghost, for my Portion, and chief good, and to give up my self Body and Soul, for thy Servant, promising and vowing to serve thee in Holiness and Righteousness all the days of my Life.

The ultimate, is God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who must be thus accepted.

And since thou hast appointed the Lord Jesus Christ, the only means of coming unto thee, I do here, upon the bended knees of my Soul accept of him as the only new and living way, by which Sinners may have access to thee, and do here solemnly joyn my self in a Marriage Covenant to him.

The mediate terms are either principal, or less principal.

O Blessed Jesus, I come to thee hungry and hardly bested, poor and wretched, and miserable, and blind, and naked; a most loathsome, polluted wretch, a guilty, condemned Malefactor, unworthy for ever to wash the feet of the servants of my Lord, much more to be solemnly married to the King of Glory, but sith such is thine unparallel'd love,

The principal is Christ, the Mediator, who must thus be embraced.

O Most dreadful God, for the Passion of thy Son, I beseech thee accept of thy poor Prodigal now prostrating himself at thy Door; I have fallen from thee by mine Iniquity, and am by Nature a Son of Death, and a thousand fold more the Child of Hell by my wicked Practice: But of thine infinite Grace thou hast promised Mercy to me in Christ if I will but turn to thee with all my Heart: Therefore upon the Call of thy Gospel, I am now come in, and throwing down my Weapons, submit my self to thy Mercy.

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The terms from which we must turn, Sin, Satan, the World and our own Righteousness, which must be thus renounced.

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And forasmuch as thou hast of thy bottomless Mercy offered most graciously to me wretched Sinner, to be again my God through Christ, if I would accept of thee: I call Heaven and Earth to record this Day, that I do here solemnly avouch thee for the Lord my God, and with all possible veneration, bowing the neck of my Soul under the feet of thy most Sacred Majesty, I do here take thee, Lord *Jehovah*, Father, Son, & Holy Ghost, for my Portion, and chief good, and to give up my self Body and Soul, for thy Servant, promising and vowing to serve thee in Holiness and Righteousness all the days of my Life.

And since thou hast appointed the Lord Jesus Christ, the only means of coming unto thee, I do here, upon the bended knees of my Soul accept of him as the only new and living way, by which Sinners may have access to thee, and do here solemnly joyn my self in a Marriage Covenant to him.

O Blessed Jesus, I come to thee hungry and hardly bested, poor and wretched, and miserable, and blind, and naked; a most loathsom, polluted wretch, a guilty, condemned Malefactor, unworthy for ever to wash the feet of the servants of my Lord, much more to be solemnly married to the King of Glory, but sith such is thine unparallel'd love,

The terms to which we must turn, are either ultimate or mediate.

The ultimate, is God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who must be thus accepted.

The mediate terms are either principal, or less principal.

The principal is Christ the Mediator, who must thus be embraced.

I do here with all my power accept thee, and do take thee for my Head and Husband, for better for worse, for richer, for poorer, for all times and conditions, to love, honour, and obey thee before all others, and this to the Death ; I embrace thee in all thine Offices : I renounce mine own worthiness, and do here avow thee to be the Lord my Righteousness ; I renounce mine own wisdom, and do here take thee for mine only Guide ; I renounce mine own Will, and take thy Will for my Law.

And since thou hast told me, that I must suffer if I will reign, I do here Covenant with thee to take my Lot, as it falls, with thee, and by thy Grace assisting to run all hazards with thee, verily supposing that neither Life nor Death shall part between thee and me.

The less principal are the Laws of Christ which must be thus observed.

And, because thou hast been pleased to give me thy holy Laws, as the rule of my Life, and the way in which I should walk to thy Kingdom, I do here willingly put my neck under thy Yoak, and set my shoulder to thy Burden, and subscribing to all thy Laws, as Holy, Just, and Good ; I solemnly take them as the rule of my words, thoughts and actions ; promising that though my flesh contradict and rebel, yet I will endeavour to order and govern my whole Life according to thy direction, and will not allow my self in the neglect of any thing that I know to be my Duty.

Only, because through the frailty of my flesh, I am subject to many failings ; I am bold humbly to protest, That unallowed miscarriages, contrary to the settled bent and resolution of my Heart, shall not make void this Covenant, for so thou hast laid.

Now, Almighty God, searcher of Hearts, thou knowest that I make this Covenant with thee this day, without any known guile, or reservation, beseeching thee, that if thou espieest any flaw or falshood there-

in, thou wouldst discover it to me, and help me to do it aright.

And now glory be to thee, O God the Father, whom I shall be bold from this day forward, to look upon as my God and Father, that ever thou shouldst find out such a way for the recovery of undone Sinners. Glory be to thee, O God the Son, who hast loved me, and washed me from my Sins in thine own Blood, and art now become my Saviour and Redeemer. Glory be to thee, O God the Holy Ghost, who by the finger of thine Almighty Power hast turned about my Heart from Sin to God.

O dreadful *Jehovah*, the Lord God Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, thou art now become my Covenant-friend, and I through thine infinite Grace, am become thy Covenant Servant, *Amen*. So be it. And the Covenant which I have made on Earth let it be ratified in Heaven.

The AUTHOR'S Advice.

THis Covenant I advise you to make, not only in Heart, but in Word; not only in Word, but in Writing; and that you would, with all possible reverence, spread the Writing before the Lord, as if you would present it to him as your Act and Deed. And when you have done this, set your hand to it. Keep it as a Memorial of the Solemn Transactions that have passed between God and you, that you may have recourse to it in Doubts and Temptations.

Direct. XI. Take heed of delaying thy Conversion, and set upon a speedy and present turning. I made haste, and delayed not, Psalm. 119. 60. Remember, and tremble at the sad instance of the foolish Virgins, that came not till thee door of Mercy was shut, Mat. 25. and of a convinced Felix, that put off Paul to another Season, and we never find that he had such a season more, Acts 24. 25. O come in while it is called to

day, lest thou shouldest be hardned through the deceitfulness of Sin; lest thy day of grace should be over, and the things that belong to thy peace should be hid from thine Eyes, Now Mercy is wooing of thee. Now Christ is waiting to be gracious to thee, and the Spirit of God is striving with thee. Now Ministers are calling; now Conscience is stirring; now the Market is open, and Oyl may be had, thou hast opportunity for the buying. Now Christ is to be had for the taking. O! strike in with the offers of Grace. O! now or never. If thou make light of this offer, God may swear in his wrath thou shalt never taste of his Supper, *Luke 14. 24.*

Direct. XII. Attend conscientiously upon the Word as the means appointed for thy Conversion, James 1. 18, 19. 1 Cor. 4. 15. Attend, I say, not customarily, but conscientiously; with this desire, design, hope and expectation, that thou mayst be converted by it. To every Sermon thou hearest, come with this thought, O, I hope God will now come in. I hope this day may be the time, this may be the man by whom God will bring me home. When thou art coming to the Ordinances, lift up thine Heart thus to God. Lord let this be the Sabbath, let this be the Season, wherein I may receive renewing Grace. O let it be said, that to day such a one was born unto thee.

Object. Thou wilt say, I have been long a hearer of the Word, and yet it hath not been effectual to my Conversion. *Answ.* Yea, but thou hast not attended upon it in this manner as a means of thy Conversion, nor with this design, nor praying for, and expecting of this happy effect of it.

Direct. XIII. Strike in with the Spirit, when he begins to work upon thy heart. When he works convictions, O do not stifle them, but join in with him, and beg the Lord to carry on convictions to Conversion. Quench not the Spirit; do not outstrive him: do not resist him. Beware of putting out convictions by evil company, or worldly business. When thou

findest

findeſt any troubles for Sin, and fears about thine eternal State, beg of God, that they may never leave thee till they have wrought off thy Heart thoroughly from Sin, and wrought it over to Jeſus Chriſt, Say to him, *Strike home, Lord, leave not the work in the miſt.* If thou ſeeſt that I am not yet wounded enough, that I am not troubled enough, wound me yet deeper, Lord. O go to the bottom of my Corruption, let out the life-blood of my ſins. Thus yield up thy ſelf to the workings of the Spirit, and hoiſe thy Sails to his gults.

Direct. XIV. *Set upon the conſtant and diligent uſe of ſerious and fervent Prayer.* He that neglects prayer, is a prophane and unſanctified Sinner, *Job 15. 4.* He that is not conſtant in Prayer, is but an Hypocrite, *Job 27. 10.* (unleſs the Omiſſion be contrary to his ordinary courſe, under the force of ſome inſtant temptation.) This is one of the firſt things Conversion appears in, that it ſets Men on praying, *Acts 9. 11.* Therefore ſet to this Duty. Let never a day paſs over thee, wherein thou haſt not, Morning, and Evening, ſet apart ſome time for ſet and ſolemn prayer in ſecret. Call thy Family alſo together daily and duly, to worſhip God with thee. Wo be unto thee if thine be found amongſt the Families that call not on God's Name, *Jer. 10. 25.* But cold and lifeleſs Devotions will not reach half way to Heaven. Be fervent, and importunate; Importunity will carry it. But without violence the Kingdom of Heaven will not be taken, *Mat. 11. 12.* Thou muſt ſtrive to enter, *Luke 13. 24.* and wreſtle with Tears and Supplications, as *Jacob*, if thou meaneſt to carry the bleſſing, *Gen. 32. 24.* comp. with *Hof. 12. 4.* Thou art undone for ever without Grace, and therefore thou muſt put to it, and reſolve to take no denial. That Man that is fixed in this reſolution; *Well I muſt have grace, and I will never give over, till I have grace, and I will never leave ſeeking and waiting, and ſtriving with God, and mine own heart, till he do renew me by the power of his*

grace; This Man is in the likeliest way to win Grace.

Obj. But God heareth not Sinners, their Prayer is an abomination.

Ans. Distinguish between Sinners. 1. There are *resolved Sinners*: their prayers God abhors. 2. *Returning Sinners*; These God will come forth to, and meet with Mercy, though yet afar off, *Luke* 15. 20. Though the prayers of the Unsanctified cannot have full acceptance; yet God hath done much at the request of such, as at *Ahab's* humiliation, and *Nineveh's* Fast, 1 *Kings* 21. 26. *Jonah* 3. 8, 9, 10. Surely thou mayst go as far as these, though thou hast no Grace: And how dost thou know but thou mayst speed in thy Suit, as they did in theirs? Yea, is he not far more likely to grant thee, than them, since thou askest in the Name of Christ. and that not for temporal Blessings, as they, but for things much more pleasing to him, *viz.* for Christ, Grace, Pardon, that thou mayst be justified, sanctified, renewed, and fitted to serve him? Turn to these soul-encouraging Scriptures, *Prov.* 2. 1, to 6. *Luke* 11. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13. *Prov.* 8. 34, 35.

Is it not good Comfort, that he calleth thee? *Mark* 10. 49. Doth he set thee on the use of means, and dost thou think he will mock thee? Doubtless, he will not fail thee, if thou be not wanting to thy self. O pray and faint not, *Luke* 18. 1. A Person of great Quality having offended the Duke of *Buckingham*, the King's great Favourite, being admitted into his Presence after long waiting, prostrates himself at his Feet, saying, I am resolved never to rise more, till I have obtained your Graces Favour, with which carriage he did overcome him. With such a resolution, do thou throw thy self at the Feet of God. 'Tis for thy Life, and therefore follow him, and give not over. Resolve thou wilt not be put off with Bones, with common Mercies. What though God do not presently open to thee? Is not Grace worth the waiting for?

for? Knock, and wait, and no doubt but sooner or later, Mercy will come.

And this know, that thou hast the very same encouragement to seek and wait, that the Saints now in Glory once had: For they were once in thy very Case. And have they sped so well? and wilt thou not go to the same door, and wait upon God in the same Course?

Direct. XV. *For sake thy evil Company*, Prov. 9. 6. *and forbear the occasions of sin*, Prov. 23. 31. Thou wilt never be turned from Sin till thou wilt decline and forego the temptations to Sin.

I never expect thy Conversion from Sin, unless thou art brought to some self-denial, as to fly the occasions. If thou wilt be nibbling at the bait, and playing on the brink, and tampering and meddling with the Snare, thy Soul will surely be taken. Where God doth expose Men in his Providence, unavoidably, to Temptations, and the occasions are such, as we cannot remove, we may expect special assistance in the use of his means. But when we tempt God by running into Danger, he will not engage to support us, when we are tempted. And of all temptations one of the most fatal and pernicious, is evil Company. O what hopeful beginnings have these often stifled! O the Souls, the Estates, the Families, the Towns that these have ruined! How many a poor Sinner hath been enlightned, and convinced, and hath been just ready to give the Devil the slip, and hath even escaped his Snare, and yet wicked Company have pull'd him back at last, and made him seven-fold more the Child of Hell. In one word, I have no hopes of thee, except thou wilt shake off thy evil Company. Christ speaketh to thee, as to them, in another Case; *If thou seek me, then let these go their way*, John 18. 8. Thy Life lies upon it: *For sake these*, or else thou canst not live, *Prov. 9. 6.* Wilt thou be worse than the Beast, to run on, when thou seest the Lord with a drawn Sword in the way? *Numb.*

22. 33. Let this Sentence be written in Capitals upon thy Conscience, **A COMPANION OF FOOLS SHALL BE DESTROYED**, *Prov. 13. 20.* The Lord hath spoken it, and who shall reverse it? And wilt thou run upon destruction, when God himself doth forewarn thee? If God do ever change thy Heart, it will appear in the change of thy Company. O fear, and fly this Gulf, by which so many thousand Souls have been swallowed into Perdition. It will be hard for thee indeed, to make thine escape. Thy Companions will be mocking thee out of thy Religion, and will study to fill thee with Prejudices against strictness, as ridiculous and comfortless. They will be flattering thee, and alluring thee; but remember the warnings of the Holy Ghost, *My Son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, cast in thy lot among us; walk not thou in the way with them, refrain thy foot from their path. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. For the way of the wicked is as darkness, they know not at what they stumble. They lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives, Prov. 1. 10. to the 18. Prov. 4. 14. to the 19.* My Soul is moved within me, to see how many of my Hearers are like to perish both they and their Houses, by this wretched Mischief, even the haunting of such places, and company, whereby they are drawn into Sin. Once more I admonish you, as *Moses did Israel, Numb. 16. 26. And he spake unto the Congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the Tents of these wicked men. O! flee them as you would those that had the Plague-Sores running in their Foreheads; these are the Devils Panders, and Decoys; and if thou dost not make thine escape, they will toll thee into Perdition, and will prove thine eternal ruin.*

Direct. XVI. Lastly, *Set apart a day to humble thy soul in secret, by fasting and prayer, to work the sense of thy sins and miseries upon thy heart. Read over the Assemblies Exposition of the Commandments, and write*

write down the Duties omitted, and sins committed by thee against every Commandment, and so make a Catalogue, of thy Sins, and with shame and sorrow spread them before the Lord. And if thy Heart be truly willing to the Terms, join thy self solemnly to the Lord in that Covenant, set down in the IXth Direction, and the Lord grant thee Mercy in his sight.

Thus I have told thee, what thou must do to be saved. Wilt thou not now obey the Voice of the Lord? Wilt thou arise and set to thy work? O Man, what answer wilt thou make, what excuse wilt thou have, if thou shouldst perish at last through very wilfulness, when thou hast known the way of Life? I do not fear thy miscarrying, if thine own idleness do not at last undo thee, in neglecting the use of the means, that are so plainly here prescribed. Rouse up, O Sluggard, and ply thy word. Be doing, and the Lord will be with thee.

A Short Soliloquy for an Unregenerate Sinner:

AH wretched Man that I am! What a condition have I brought my self into by Sin? O! I see my Heart hath but deceived me all this while, in flattering me, that my condition was good. I see, I see, I am but a lost and undone Man; for ever undone, unless the Lord help me out of this condition. My Sins! My Sins! Lord, what an unclean, polluted wretch am I! more loathsome and odious to thee, than the most hateful Venom, or noisom Carcass can be to me. O! what a Hell of Sin is in this Heart of mine, which I have flattered my self to be a good Heart? Lord, how universally am I corrupted, in all my parts, powers, performances? All the imaginations of the thoughts of my Heart, are only
evil

evil continually. I am under an inability to, averfeness from and enmity againſt any thing that is good, and am prone to all that is evil. My Heart is a very ſink of all Sin: And O the innumerable hoſts, and ſwarms of ſinful thoughts, words, and actions, that have flown from thence. O the load of guilt that is on my Soul! *My head is full, my heart full, my mind and my members they are all full of ſin.* O my Sins! How do they ſtare upon me! How do they witneſs againſt me! Wo is me, my Creditors are upon me, every Commandment taketh hold upon me, for more than ten thouſand Talents, yea ten thouſand times ten thouſand. How endleſs then is the ſum of all my Debts? If this whole World were filled up from Earth to Heaven with Paper, and all this Paper written over, within and without, by Arithmeticians: Yet when all were caſt up together, it would come unconceivably ſhort of what I owe to the leaſt of God's Commandments. Wo unto me! for my debts are infinite, and my ſins are increaſed. They are wrongs to an infinite Maſteſty: And if he that committeth Treason againſt a ſilken Mortal, is worthy to be racked, drawn and quartered: What have I deſerved, that have ſo often liſted up my hand againſt Heaven, and have ſtruck at the Crown and Dignity of the Almighty?

O my Sins! my Sins! Behold a Troop cometh! Multitudes! Multitudes! there is no number of their Armies. Innumerable evils have compaſſed me about: Mine iniquities have taken hold upon me; they have ſet themſelves in array againſt me. O! it were better to have all the Regiments of Hell come againſt me, than to have my Sins to fall upon me, to the ſpoiling of my Soul. Lord, how am I ſurrounded? How many are they that riſe up againſt me? They have beſet me behind and before: They ſwarm within me and without me: They have poſſeſſed all my Powers, and have fortified mine unhappy Soul, as a Garriſon, which this brood of Hell doth

doth Man, and maintain, against the God that made me.

And they are as mighty, as they be many. The Sands are many, but then they are not great: The Mountains great, but then they are not many. But wo is me! my Sins are as many as the Sands, and as mighty as the Mountains. Their weight is greater than their number. It were better that the Rocks and the Mountains should fall upon me, than the crushing and insupportable load of my own Sins. Lord, I am heavy loaden; let Mercy help, or I am gone. Unload me of this heavy Guilt, this sinking load, or I am crushed without hope, and must be pressed down to Hell. If my grief were thorowly weighed, and my sins laid in the ballances together, they would be heavier than the Sand of the Sea, therefore my words are swallowed up: They would weigh down all the Rocks & the Hills, and turn the ballance against all the Isles of the Earth. O Lord, thou knowest my manifold Transgressions, and my mighty Sins.

Ah my Soul! Alas my Glory! Whither art thou humbled? Once the Glory of the Creation, and the Image of God; now a Lump of filthiness; a Coffin of rottenness, replenished with stench and loathsomeness. O what work hath Sin made with thee? thou shalt be termed *Forsaken*, and all the rooms of thy Faculties *Desolate*, and the name that thou shalt be called by, is, *Ichabod*, or, Where is the Glory? How art thou come down mightily? My Beauty is turned into deformity, and my Glory into Shame. Lord, what a loathsome Leper am I? The Ulcerous Bodies of *Job* and *Lazarus* were not more offensive to the Eyes and Nostrils of Men, than I must needs be to the most Holy God, whose Eyes cannot behold iniquity.

And

And what misery have my Sins brought upon me? Lord, what a case am I in? Sold under Sin, cast out of God's Favour, accursed from the Lord, cursed in my Body, cursed in my Soul, cursed in my Name, in my Estate, my Relations, and all that I have. My Sins are unpardoned, and my Soul within a step of Death. Alas! What shall I do? Whither shall I go? Which way shall I look? God is frowning on me from above; Hell gaping for me beneath; Conscience smiting me within; temptations and dangers surrounding me without. Oh, whither shall I flee? What place can hide me from Omniscience? What power can secure me from Omnipotency?

What meanest thou, O my Soul, to go on thus? Art thou in league with Hell? Hast thou made a Covenant with Death? Art thou in love with thy Misery? Is it good for thee to be here? Alas what shall I do! Shall I go on in my sinful ways? Why then certain damnation will be mine end: And shall I be so besotted and bemaddened, as to go and sell my Soul to the Flames, for a little Ale, and a little Ease, for a little Pleasure, or Gain, or content to my Flesh? Shall I linger any longer in this wretched Estate? No, if I tarry here, I shall die; What then? Is there no help, no hope? None except I turn. Why, but is there any remedy for such woful Misery? Any Mercy after such provoking iniquity? Yes, as sure as God's Oath is true, I shall have pardon, and mercy yet, if presently, unfeignedly, and unreservedly, I turn by Christ to him.

Why then I thank thee upon the bended knees of my Soul, O most merciful Jehovah, that thy patience hath waited upon me hitherto: For hadst thou took me away in this Estate, I had perished for ever. And now I adore thy Grace, and accept the offers of thy Mercy. I renounce all my Sins, and resolve by thy Grace, to set my self against them, and to follow thee in

in holiness and righteousness all the days of my Life.

Who am I, Lord, that I should make any claim unto thee, or have any part or portion in thee, who am not worthy to lick up the Dust of thy Feet? Yet since thou holdest forth the golden Scepter, I am bold, to come and touch. To despair, would be to disparage thy Mercy: and to stand off when thou biddest me come, would be at once to undo my self, and rebel against thee, under the pretence of Humility. Therefore I bow my Soul to thee, and with all possible thankfulness accept thee, as mine, and give up my self to thee, as thine. Thou shalt be Sovereign over me, my King, and my God: Thou shalt be in the Throne, and all my powers shall bow to thee, they shall come and worship before thy feet. Thou shalt be my Portion, O Lord, and I will rest in thee.

Thou callest for my Heart. O that it were any way fit for thine acceptance! I am unworthy, O Lord, everlastingly unworthy to be thine. But since thou wilt have it so, I freely give up my Heart to thee: Take it, it is thine. O that it were better! But Lord, I put it into thine hand, who alone canst mend it. Mould it after thine own Heart; make it as thou wouldst have it, holy, humble, heavenly, soft, tender, flexible, and write thy Law upon it.

Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly: Enter in triumphantly: Take me up to thee for ever. I give up to thee, I come to thee, as the only way to the Father, as the only Mediator, the means ordained to bring me to God. I have destroyed my self, but in thee is my help. Save Lord, or else I perish. I come to thee with the Rope about my Neck. I am worthy to die, and to be damned. Never was the hire more due to the Servant, never was penny more due to the Labourer, than Death, and Hell, my just Wages, is due to me for my Sins. But I fly to thy Merits, I trust alone to the value and virtue of thy Sacrifice and prevalency of thine intercession. I submit to
thy

thy teaching, I make choice of thy Government. Stand open, ye everlasting Doors, that the King of Glory may come in.

O thou Spirit of the most High, the comforter and sanctifier of thy Chosen; come in with all thy glorious Train, all thy courtly Attendants, thy Fruits, and Graces. Let me be thine Habitation. I can give thee but what is thine own already: but here with the poor Widow, I cast my two Mites, my Soul and my Body, into thy Treasury; fully resigning them up to thee, to be Sanctified by thee, to be Servants to thee. They shall be thy Patients, Cure thou their Malady; they shall be thy Agents, Govern thou their Motions. Too long have I served the World, too long have I hearkned to Satan, but now I renouncethem all, and will be ruled by thy Dictates, and Directions, and guided by thy Counsel.

O blessed Trinity! O glorious Unity! I deliver up my self to thee; receive me; write thy name, O Lord, upon me, and upon all that I have, as thy proper Goods. Set thy mark upon me, upon every Member of my Body, and every Faculty of my Soul. I have chosen thy Precepts. Thy Law will I lay before me: This shall be the Copy, which I will keep in my Eye, and study to write after. According to this Rule do I resolve, by thy Grace, to walk: After this Law shall my whole Man be governed. And though I cannot perfectly keep one of thy Commandments, yet I will allow my self in the breach of none. I know my Flesh will hang back: But I resolve, in the power of thy Grace, to cleave to thee, and thy holy ways, whatever it cost me. I am sure I cannot come off a loser by thee, therefore I will be content with reproach, and difficulties, and hardships here, and will deny my self, and take up my Cross and follow thee. Lord Jesus, thy Yoak is easie, thy Cross is welcome, as it is the way to thee. I lay aside all hopes of worldly Happiness. I will be content to tarry till I come to thee. Let me be poor and low,
little

little and despised here, so I may but be admitted to live, and reign with thee hereafter. Lord, thou hast my Heart and Hand to this Agreement. Be it as the Laws of the *Medes* and *Persians*, never to be reversed. To this, I will stand; In this resolution, by Grace, I will live and die. I have sworn and will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous Judgments. I have given my free consent, I have made my everlasting Choice. Lord Jesus confirm the Contract, *Amen.*

CHAP. VII.

Containing the Motives to Conversion.

THough what is already said of the Necessity of Conversion, and of the Miseries of the Unconverted, might be sufficient to induce any considering mind to resolve upon a present Turning, or Conversion unto God: Yet knowing what a piece of desperate obstinacy and untractableness the heart of Man naturally is, I have thought it Necessary to add to the means of Conversion and Directions for a Covenant-closure with God in Christ, some Motives to perswade you hereunto.

‘O Lord, fail me not now at my last attempts. If any
‘ Soul hath read hitherto, and be yet untouched, now
‘ Lord fasten in him and do thy work; Now take
‘ him by the Heart, overcome him, perswade him,
‘ till he say, thou hast prevailed, for thou wast stronger
‘ than I. Lord, didst thou not make me a Fisher
‘ of Men? And have I toiled all this while and
‘ caught nothing? Alas, that I should have spent
‘ my strength for nought! And now I am casting my
‘ last; Lord Jesus, stand thou upon the Shoar, and
‘ direct, how, and where I shall spread my Net, and
‘ and let me so inclose with Arguments the Souls I
‘ seek for, that they may not be able to get out. Now,
‘ Lord, for a multitude of Souls! Now for a full
‘ draught!

‘ draught ! O Lord God, remember me I pray thee,
 ‘ and strengthen me this once, O God.

But I turn me unto you.

Men and Brethren, Heaven and Earth do call upon you, yea Hell it self doth preach the Doctrine of Repentance unto you. The Angels of the Churches travel with you, *Gal. 4. 19.* the Angels of Heaven wait for you, for your repenting and turning unto God. O Sinner, why should the Devils make merry with thee ? Why shouldst thou be a morsel for that devouring *Leviathan* ? Why should Harpies and Hell-Hounds tear thee, and make a Feast upon thee, and when they have got thee into the Snare, and have fastened their Talons in thee, laugh at thy Destruction, and deride thy Misery, and sport themselves with thy damnable Folly ? This must be thy Case, except thou turn. And were it not better thou shouldst be a joy to Angels, than a Laughing-stock and Sport for Devils ? Verily if thou wouldst but come in, the Heavenly Host would take up their Anthems, and Sing, *Glory be to God in the Highest* ; the Morning Stars would sing together, and all the Sons of God shout for Joy, and celebrate this New Creation as they did the first. Thy Repentance would, as it were, make Holy-day in Heaven, and the glorious Spirits would Rejoice in that there is a new Brother added to their Society, *Rev. 22. 9.* another Heir born to their Lord, and the lost Son received safe and sound. The true penitents Tears are indeed the Wine that cheareth both God and Man.

If it be little, that Men and Angels would Rejoice at thy Conversion, know that God himself would rejoice over thee, even with singing, and rest in his love, *Luke 15. 9. Isa. 62. 5.* Never did *Jacob* with such joy weep over the Neck of his *Joseph*, as thy Heavenly Father would Rejoice over thee, upon thy coming in to him. Look over the Story of the Prodigal. Methinks I see how the Aged Father lays aside his State, and forgets his Years : Behold how he runneth !

neth! *Luke 15. 20.* O the haste that Mercy makes! The Sinner makes not half that speed. Methinks I see how his Bowels turn, how his Compassions yearn. (How quick-sighted is love!) Mercy spies him a great way off, forgets his riotous Courses, unnatural Rebellion, horrid Unthankfulness, debauched Practices (not a word of these) but receives him with open Arms, clasps about his Neck, forgets the nastiness of his Rags, kisses the Lips that deserve to be loathed, the Lips that had been joined to Harlots, that had been commoners with the Swine, calls for the fatted Calf, the best Robe, the Ring, the Shooes, the best Cheer in Heavens Store, the best Attire in Heaven's Wardrobe, &c. *Luke 15. 6, 9, 23.* yea the Joy cannot be held in one Breast, others must be called to participate: The Friends must meet and make Merry, Angels must wait, but the Prodigal must be set at the Table under his Fathers Wing. He is the Joy of the Feast: He is the sweet Subject of the Father's delight. The Friends sympathize, but none knows the Felicity the Father takes in his new-born Son, whom he hath received from the Dead. Methinks I hear the Musick and the Dancing at a distance. O the Melody of the Heavenly Choristers! I cannot learn the Song, *Rev. 14. 3.* But methinks I over-hear the burden, at which all the harmonious Quire with one consent strikes sweetly in; for thus goes the round at Heaven's Table, *For this my Son was dead, and is alive again; was lost, and is found, Luke 15. 23, 24, 32.* I need not farther explain the parable. God is the Father, Christ the Cheer, his Righteousness the Robe, his Graces the Ornaments, Ministers, Saints, Angels the Friends and Servants, and thou that readest (if thou wilt but unfeignedly repent and turn) the welcome Prodigal, the happy instance of all this Grace, and blessed Subject of his Joy and Love.

O Rock! O Adamant! What! not moved yet? not yet resolved to turn forthwith, and to close with Mercy? I will try thee yet once again: If one were

sent to thee from the dead, wouldst thou be perswaded? Why, hear the Voice from the dead, from the damned, crying to thee that thou shouldst Repent. *I pray thee that thou wouldst send him to my Fathers house, for I have five Brethren, that he may testifie unto them, lest they also come into this place of Torment. If one went unto them from the dead, they will repent, Luke 16. 27, 28, &c.* Hear, O Man, thy Predecessors in impenitence Preach to thee from the infernal Gibbets, from the Flames, from the Rack, that thou shouldst repent. O look down into the bottomless Pit. Seest thou how the *smoak of their torment ascendeth for ever and ever? Rev. 14. 11.* How black are the Fiends? How furious are their Tormentors? 'Tis their only Musick to hear how their miserable Patients roar, to hear their Bones crack. 'Tis their Meat and Drink, to see how their Flesh frieth and their Fat droppeth, to drench them with burning Metal, and to rip open their Bodies, and to pour in the fierce burning Brass into their Bowels, and the recesses and ventricles of their Hearts. What thinkest thou of those chains of Darkness, of those instruments of Cruelty? Canst thou be content to burn? Seest thou how the Worm gnaweth? how the Oven gloweth? how the Fire rageth? What say'st thou to that River of Brimstone, that dark and horrible Vault, that gulf of Perdition? Wilt thou take up thy habitation here? O lay thine Ear to the door of Hell. Hearest thou the curses and Blasphemies, the weepings and the wailings, how they lament their Folly, and curse their day? *Mat. 22. 13. Rev. 16. 9.* How do they roar and yell, and gnash their Teeth? How deep are their Groans? How feeling are their Moans? How unconceivable are their Miseries? If the shrieks of *Corah, Dathan, and Abiram*, were so terrible (when the Earth clave asunder, and opened her Mouth, and swallowed them up, and all that appertained to them) that all *Israel* fled at the cry of them, *Numb. 16. 33, 34.* O how fearful would the cry be, if God should take off the

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covering from the mouth of Hell, and let the cry of the damned ascend in all its terror among the Children of Men? And of all their Moans and Miseries, this is the piercing, killing emphasis and burden, *for ever, for ever*. Why, as God liveth, that made thy Soul, thou art but a few hours distant from all this, except thou repent and be Converted.

O! I am even lost and swallowed up in the abundance of those Arguments that I might suggest. If there be any point of Wisdom in all the World, it is to repent and come in; if there be any thing Righteous, any thing reasonable, this is it. If there be any thing in the World that may be called madness, and folly, and any thing that may be counted sottish, absurd, brutish, unreasonable, it is this, to go on in thine unconverted Estate. Let me beg thee, as thou wouldst not wilfully destroy thy self, to sit down and weigh, besides what hath been said, these following Motives, and let Conscience speak, if it be not Reason, that thou shouldst repent and turn.

1. *The God that made thee doth most graciously invite thee.*

First, *His most sweet and merciful nature doth invite thee*; O the kindness of God, his working Bowels, his tender Mercies! they are infinitely above our thoughts, higher than Heaven, what can we do? Deeper than Hell, what can we know? *Job* 11. 7, 8, 9. *He is full of compassion, and gracious; long suffering, and plenteous in mercy*, *Psal.* 86. 15. This is a great Argument to perswade Sinners to come in. *Turn unto the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil*. If God would not repent of the evil, it were some discouragement to us, why we should not repent. If there were no hope of Mercy, it were no such wonder, if Rebels should stand out; but never had Subjects such a gracious Prince, such Piety, Patience, Clemency, pity to deal with, as you have. *Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity?* *See. Mic.*

7. 18. O Sinners: See what God you have to deal with; if you will but turn, *He will turn again, and have compassion on you, he will subdue your iniquities, and cast all your sins into the depth of the Sea*, ver. 19. *Return unto me, saith the Lord of Hosts, and I will return unto you*, Mal. 3. 7. Zech. 1. 3. Sinners, do not fail in that they have too high thoughts of God's Mercies, but in that, 1. *They overlook his Justice*, 2. *They promise themselves mercy out of God's way*. His Mercy is beyond all imagination, *Isa. 55. 9.* great Mercies, *1 Chron. 21. 13.* manifold Mercies, *Neh. 9. 19.* tender Mercies, *Psalms. 25. 6.* sure Mercies, *Isa. 55. 3.* everlasting Mercies, *Psalms, 103. 17.* *Isa. 54. 8.* and all thine own, if thou wilt but turn. Art thou willing to come in? Why the Lord hath laid aside his terror, erected a Throne of Grace, holds forth the golden Scepter: Touch and live. Would a merciful Man slay his Enemy, when prostrate at his Feet, acknowledging his wrong, begging pardon, and offering to enter with him into a Covenant of Peace? Much less will the merciful God. Study his Name, *Exod. 34. 7.* Read their experience, *Neh. 9. 17.*

Secondly, *His Soul-encouraging calls and promises do invite thee*. Ah what an earnest suitor is Mercy to thee! how lovingly, how instantly it calleth after thee! how passionately it wooeth thee! *Return, thou back-sliding Israel, saith the Lord, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you; for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity. Turn, O back-sliding children, saith the Lord, for I am married unto you: return, and I will heal your back-slidings. Thou hast plaid the Harlot with many Lovers, yet return unto me, saith the Lord*, Jer. 3. 11, 12, 13, 14, 22. *As I live saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that he turn from his way and live; turn ye, turn ye, from your evil ways, for why will ye die, O house of Israel?* Ezek. 33. 11. *If the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is*

lawful

lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him; in his righteousness that he hath done shall he live. Repent and turn your selves from all your transgressions, so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, and make you a clean heart, and a new spirit, for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God, wherefore turn your selves, and live ye, Ezek. 18. 21, 23, 30, 31, 32.

O melting, gracious Words! The voice of a God, and not of a Man! This is not the manner of Men, for the offended Sovereign to sue to the offending traiterous varlet. O how doth Mercy follow thee, and plead with thee! Is not thy heart broken yet? O that to day you would hear his voice!

2. *The Doors of Heaven are thrown open to thee; The everlasting Gates are set wide for thee, and an abundant entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven administred to thee.* Christ now bespeaks thee, (as she her Husband) *Arise and take possession, 1 Kings 21. 15.* View the glory of the other World as set forth in the Map of the Gospel. Get thee up into *Pisgah* of the Promises, and lift up thine Eyes West-ward, North-ward, South-ward, and East-ward, and see the good Land that is beyond *Jordan*, and that goodly Mountain. Behold the Paradise of God, watered with the streams of Glory. Arise and walk through the Land, in the length of it, and in the breadth of it, for all the Land, which thou seeest, the Lord will give it to thee for ever, if thou wilt but return, *Gen. 13. 14, 15, 17.* Let me say to thee, as *Paul* to *Agrippa*, *Believest thou the Prophet?* If thou believest indeed, do but view what glorious things are spoken of the City of God, *Psalms. 87. 3.* and know, that all this is here tendred in the name of God to thee. As verily as God is true it shall be for ever thine, if thou wilt but throughly turn.

Behold the City of pure transparent Gold, whose Foundations are garnished with all manner of precious Stones, whose Gates are Pearls, whose Light is Glory, whose Temple God. Believest thou this? If thou dost, art thou not worse than distracted, that wilt not take possession, when the gates are flung open to thee, and thou art bid to enter? O ye Sons of Folly, will ye embrace the Dunghills, and refuse the Kingdom? Behold, the Lord God taketh you up into the Mountain, shews you the Kingdom of Heaven, and all the Glory thereof, and tells you; *All this will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me*: If you will submit to Mercy, accept my Son, and serve me in Righteousness and Holiness. *O fools, and slow of heart to believe!* Will you court the Harlot, will you seek and serve the World, and neglect the eternal Glory? What! not enter into Paradise, when the flaming Sword, that was once set to keep you out, is now used to drive you in? But you will say, I am uncharitable, to think you Infidels and Unbelievers. Why, what shall I think you? either you are desperate Unbelievers, that do not credit it, or stark distracted, that you know and believe the excellency and eternity of his Glory, and yet do so fearfully neglect it. Surely you have no Faith, or no Reason; and I had almost said, Conscience should tell you so, before I leave you.

Do but attend what is offered you, O blessed Kingdom! A Kingdom of Glory, *1 Thes. 2. 12.* a Kingdom of Righteousness, *2 Pet. 3. 13.* a Kingdom of Peace, *Rom. 14. 17.* an everlasting Kingdom, *2 Pet. 1. 11.* Here thou shalt dwell, here thou shalt reign for ever; and the Lord shall set thee in a Throne of Glory, *Mat. 19. 28.* and with his own hand shall set the Royal Diadem upon thine Head, and give thee a Crown, not of Thorns, (for there shall be no sinning nor suffering there, *Rev. 21. 27, 22, 3, 4, 5.*) not of Gold (for this shall be viler than the Dirt in that day) but a Crown of Life, *James 1. 12* a Crown of Righteousness, *2 Tim. 4. 1.* a Crown

of Glory, *1 Pet. 5. 4.* Yea thou shalt put on Glory as a Robe, *1 Cor. 15. 53.* and shalt shine like the Sun in the Firmament in the Glory of thy Father, *Mat. 13. 43.* Look now upon thy dirty Flesh, thy Clay, thy Worms meat: This very Flesh, this Lump, this Carcass shall be brighter than the Stars, *Dan. 12. 3.* In short, thou shalt be made like unto the Angels of God, *Luke 20. 36.* and behold his Face in Righteousness, *Pf. 17. 15.* Look in now and tell me, dost thou yet believe? If not, Conscience must pronounce thee an Infidel, for it is the very Word of God, that I speak.

But if thou say, thou believest, let me next know thy Resolutions. Wilt thou embrace this for thy Happiness? Wilt thou forgo thy sinful Gains, thy forbidden Pleasures? Wilt thou trample on the Worlds esteem, and spit in the Harlots Face, and stop thine Ears at her Flatteries, and wrest thee out of her Embraces? Wilt thou be content to take up with present reproach and poverty, if it lie in thy way to Heaven, and follow the Lord with humble self-denial, in a mortified and flesh displeasing Life? If so, all is thine, and that for ever. And art not thou fairly offered? Is it not pity but he should be damned, that will needs go on and perish, when all this may be had for the taking? In a word, wilt thou now close with these proffers? Wilt thou take God at his Word? Wilt thou let go thy hold-fast of the World, and rid thy hands of thy Sins, and lay hold on eternal Life? If not, let Conscience tell thee whether thou art not distracted, or bewitched, that thou shouldst neglect so happy a choice, by which thou mightest be made for ever.

3. *God will settle unspeakable Priviledges at present upon thee, 1 Cor. 3. 22. Heb. 12. 22, 23; 24. Though the full of your blessedness shall be deferred till hereafter, yet God will give you no little things in hand.*

He will redeem you from your thralldom, *John 8. 36.* he will pluck you from the paw of the Lyon, *Col. 1. 13.* the Serpent shall bruise your heel, but you

shall bruise his head, *Gen.* 3. 15. He shall deliver you from the present evil World, *Gal.* 1. 4. Prosperity shall not destroy you; Adversity shall not separate between him and you, *Rom.* 8. 35, 37, 38. He will redeem you from the power of the Grave, *Psalms.* 49. 15. and make the King of Terrors a Messenger of Peace to you. He will take out the curse from the Cross, *Psalms.* 119. 71. and make affliction the fining-pot, the Fan, the Physick, to blow off the Chaff, purifie the Metal, and purge the Mind, *Dan.* 12. 10. *Isa.* 27. 9. He will save you from the arrest of the Law, and turn the curse into a blessing to you, *Rom.* 6. 14. *Gal.* 3. 14. He hath the keys of Hell and Death, and shutteth that no Man openeth, *Rev.* 3. 7. and 1. 18. and he will shut its mouth, as once he did the Lions, *Dan.* 6. 22. that you shall not be hurt of the second death, *Rev.* 2. 11.

But he will not only save you from Misery, but install you into unspeakable Prerogatives. He will bestow himself upon you, he will be a Friend unto you, and a Father to you, *2 Cor.* 6. 18. he will be a Sun and a Shield to you, *Psalms.* 84. 11. in a word, he will be a God to you, *Gen.* 17. 7. and what can be said more? What you may expect that a God should do for you, and be to you, that he will be, that he will do. She that marries a Prince, expects he should do for her like a Prince, that she may live in a suitable State, and have an answerable Dowry. He that hath a King for his Father or Friend, expects he should do for him like a King. Alas, the Kings and Monarchs of the Earth, so much above you, are but like the painted Butter-flies amongst the rest of their kind, or the fair coloured Palmer-worm amongst the rest of the Worms, if compared with God. As he doth infinitely exceed the Glory and Power of his glittering Dust, so he will, beyond all proportion, exceed, in doing for his Favourites, whatever Princes can do for theirs. He will give you Grace and Glory, and withhold no good thing from you, *Psalms.* 84. 11.

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He will take you for his Sons and Daughters, and make you Heirs of his Promises, *Heb. 6. 17.* and establish his everlasting Covenant with you, *Jer. 32. 40.* He will justify you from all that Law, Conscience, Satan, can charge upon you, *Rom. 8. 33, 34.* he will give you free access into his presence, and accept your Persons, and receive your Prayers, *Eph. 3. 12. Eph. 1. 6. 1 John 5. 14.* He will abide in you, and make you the Men of his Secrets, and hold a constant and friendly Communion with you, *John 14. 23. John 15. 15. 1 John 1. 3.* His Ear shall be open, his Door open, his Store open at all times to you, his blessing shall rest upon you, and he will make your Enemies to serve you, and work about all things for good unto you, *Psalms. 115. 13. Rom. 8. 28.*

4. *The terms of mercy are brought as low, as possible; to you.* God hath stooped as low to Sinners, as with Honour he can. He will not be thought a fautor of Sin, nor stain the glory of his Holiness, and whither could he come lower than he hath, unless he should do this? He hath abated the impossible terms of the first Covenant, *Jer. 3. 13. Mark 5. 36. Acts 16. 31. Acts 3. 19. Prov. 28. 13.* He doth not impose any thing unreasonable, or impossible, as a condition of Life upon you. Two things were Necessary to be done, according to the Tenour of the first Covenant by you. 1. *That you should fully satisfy the demands of Justice for past offences.* 2. *That you should perform personally, perfectly and perpetually the whole Law for the time to come.* Both these are to us impossible, *Rom. 8. 3.* But behold God's gracious abatement in both. He doth not stand upon satisfaction, he is content to take of the surety (and he of his own providing too) what he might have exacted from you, *2 Cor. 5. 19.* He declares himself to have received a ransom, *Job 33. 24. 1 Tim. 2. 6.* and that he expects nothing but that you should accept his Son, and he shall be righteousness and Redemption to you, *John 1. 12. 1 Cor. 1. 30.*

1. 30. And for the future Obedience, here he is content to yield to your weakness, and remit the rigor. He doth not stand upon perfection (as a condition of life, though he still insists upon it as due) but is content to accept of sincerity, *Gen. 17. 1. Prov. 11. 20.* Though you cannot pay the full debt, he will accept you according to that which you have, and take willing for doing, and the purpose for the performance, *2 Cor. 8. 12. 2 Chron. 6. 8. Heb. 11. 17.* and if you come in his Christ, and set your hearts to please him, and make it the chief of your cares, he will approve and reward you, though the vessel be marred in your hands.

O consider your Makers Condescension. Let me say to you, as *Naaman's* Servant to him: *My Father, if the Prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldst thou not have done it? how much rather, when he saith unto thee, Wash and be clean?* *2 Kings 5. 13.* If God had demanded some terrible, some severe and rigorous thing of you, to escape eternal Damnation, would you not have done it? Suppose it had been to spend all your days in sorrow in some howling Wilderness, or pine your selves with famine, or to offer the fruit of your Bodies for the sin of your Souls, would you not have thankfully accepted eternal Redemption, though these had been the Conditions? Yea farther, if God should have told you, you should have fryed in the fire for millions Ages, or been so long tormented in Hell, would you not have gladly accepted it? Alas, all these are not so much as one Sand in the Glass of eternity. If your offended Creator should have held you but one Year upon the Rack, and then bid you come and forsake your Sins, accept Christ and serve him a few Years in self-denial, or lie in this case for ever and ever: Do you think you should have stuck at the offer, and disputed the terms, and have been unresolved, whether you were best to accept of the motion? O Sinner, return and live; why shouldest thou die, when life is to be had for the taking,

taking, and mercy should be beholding to thee (as it were) to be saved? Couldst thou say indeed, *Lord, I know, that thou wast an hard man, Mat. 25. 24.* thou hadst some little excuse; but when the God of Heaven hath stooped so low, and bated so far, if now thou shouldst stand off, who shall plead for thee?

Obj. Notwithstanding all these abatements, I am no more able to perform those Conditions, (in themselves so easie) of Faith and Repentance, and sincere Obedience, than to satisfie and fulfil the Law.

Ans. These you may perform by God's Grace enabling, whereas the other are naturally impossible in this State, even to Believers themselves. But let the next consideration serve for a fuller Answer.

5. *Wherein you are impotent, God doth offer Grace to enable you. I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded, Prov. 1. 24.* What though you are plunged into the ditch of that Misery, from which you can never get out? Christ offers to help you out; he stretched his hand to you, and if you perish, it is for refusing his help. *Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man open to me, I will come in, Rev. 3. 20.* What though you are poor, and wretched, and blind, and naked, Christ offereth a cure for your blindness, a cover for your nakedness, a remedy for your poverty; he tendreth you his Righteousness, his Grace, *I counsel thee to buy of me gold, that thou mayst be rich, and white rayment, that thou mayst be clothed, and anoint thine eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayst see, Rev. 3. 17. 18.* Do you say the condition is impossible, for I have not wherewith to buy? You must know, that this buying is without Money, and without price, *Isa. 55. 1.* This buying is by begging, and seeking with diligence and constancy in the use of God's Means, *Prov. 2. 3, 4.* God commandeth thee to know him, and to fear him. Dost thou say, Yea but my mind is blinded, and my heart is hardened from his fear? I Answer, God doth offer to enlighten thy mind, and to teach thee his fear; that is presented to thy choice,
Prov.

Prov. 1. 29. For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord. So that now, if Men live in ignorance and estrangement from the Lord, it is because they will not understand, and desire not the knowledge of his ways, Job 21. 14. If thou criest after knowledge, if thou seekest her as Silver, &c. Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God, Prov. 2. 3, 4, 5. Is not here a fair offer? Turn you at my reproof. Behold I will pour out my Spirit unto you, Prov. 1. 23. Though of your selves you can do nothing, yet you may do all through his Spirit enabling you; and he doth offer assistance to you, God bids you wash and make you clean, Isa. 1. 16. you say you are unable as much as the Leopard to wash out his Spots, Jer. 13. 23. yea, but the Lord doth offer to purge you, so, that if you be filthy still, 'tis through your own wilfulness, Ezek. 24. 13. I have purged thee, and thou wast not purged, Jer. 13. 27. O Jerusalem. wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be? God doth wait when you will be made clean, when you will yield to his motions, and accept of his offers, and let him do for and in you, what you cannot do for your selves. You do not know how much God will do upon your importunity, if you will but be restless and instant with him, Luke 11. 8. and 18. 5.

If God hath not bound himself by exprefs promise to wicked Men, to give them Grace in the diligent use of the means, yet he hath given them abundant encouragement to expect it from him, if they seek it earnestly in his way. His most gracious nature is abundant encouragement. If a rich and most bountiful Man should see thee in Misery, and bid thee come to his door, wouldst thou not with confidence expect, at thy coming to find some relief? Thou art not able to believe, nor repent: God appoints thee to use such and such means, in order to thy obtaining Faith and Repentance: Doth not this argue, that God will bestow these upon thee, if thou dost ply him
diligent

diligently in prayer, meditation, reading, hearing, self-examination, and the rest of his means? Otherwise God should but mock his poor Creatures, to put them upon these self-denying endeavours, and then when they have put hard to it, and continued waiting upon him for Grace, deny them at last. Surely if a sweet natured Man would not deal thus, much less will the most merciful and gracious God.

I intended to have added many other Arguments but these have swoln under my hand, and I hope the judicious Reader will rather look upon the weight than the number.

The Conclusion of the Whole.

AND now, my Brethren, let me know your minds: What do you intend to do? Will you go on and die, or will you set upon a thorow and speedy Conversion, and lay hold on eternal Life? How long will you linger in *Sodom*? How long will you halt between two Opinions? *1 Kings* 18. 21. Are you not yet resolved whether Christ or *Barabbas*, whether Bliss or Torment, whether the Land of *Cabul*, *1 Kings* 9. 13. or the Paradise of God be the better choice? Is it a disputable case, whether the *Abana* and *Pharphar* of *Damascus*, be better than all the Streams of *Eden*? or whether the vile puddle of Sin, be to be preferred before the water of Life, clear as Chrystal, proceeding out of the Throne of God and of the Lamb? Can the World in good earnest do that for you, that Christ can? Will it stand by you to eternity? Will Pleasures, Titles, Lands, Treasures, descend with you? *Psalms* 49. 17. *1 Tim.* 6. 7. If not, had you not need look after somewhat that will? What mean you to stand wavering, to be off and on? Foolish Children! how long will you stick between the Womb and the World? Shall I leave you at last no farther than *Agrippa*, but almost perswaded? Why you are for ever lost, if left here. As good not at all,

as not altogether Christians. You are half of the mind to give over your former negligent Life, and to set to a strict and holy Course: You could wish you were as some others be, and could do as they can do. How long will you rest in idle wishes, and fruitless purposes? When will you come to a fixed, full, and firm resolve? Do not you see how Satan gulls you, by tempting you to delays? How long hath he toll'd you on in the way of Perdition? How many Years have you been purposing to amend? What if God should have taken you off this while?

Well, put me not off with a dilatory answer: Tell me not of hereafter. I must have your present consent. If you be not now resolved, while the Lord is treating with you, and wooing of you, much less are you like to be hereafter, when these impressions are worn out, and you are hardened through the deceitfulness of Sin. Will you give me your hands? Will you set open the doors, and give the Lord Jesus the full and present Possession? Will you put your names into his Covenant? Will you subscribe? What do you resolve upon? If you are still upon your delays, my labour is lost, and all is like to come to nothing. Fain I would, that you should now put in your Adventures. Come, cast in your Lot, make your choice: *Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation; to day if you will hear his voice.* Why should not this be the day from whence thou should be able to date thine Happiness? Why shouldest thou venture a day longer, in this dangerous and dreadful condition? What if God should this night require thy Soul? *O that thou mightest know in this thy day the things that belong unto thy peace, before they be hid from thine eyes! Luke 19. 42.* This is thy day, and 'tis but a day, *John 9. 4.* Others have had their day, and have received their doom; and now art thou brought upon the stage of this World, here to act thy part for a whole Eternity. Remember, thou art now upon thy good Behaviour for everlasting. If thou

thou make not a wise choice now, thou art undone for ever. Look what thy present choice is, such must thine eternal condition be, *Luke 10. 42. Luke 16. 25. Prov. 1. 27, 28, 29.*

And is it true indeed? is Life and Death at thy choice? Yea, 'tis as true as truth is, *Deut. 30. 19.* Why then, what hinders but that thou shouldest be happy? Nothing doth or can hinder, but thine own wilful neglect, or refusal. It was the passage of the *Eunuch to Philip; See here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?* So I may say to thee: See, here is Christ, here is Mercy, Pardon, Life, what hinders, but that thou shouldst be pardoned, and saved? One of the Martyrs, as he was praying at the Stake, had his Pardon set by in a Box (which indeed he refused, deservedly, because upon unworthy Terms.) But here the Terms are most honourable and easie. O Sinner, wilt thou burn with thy pardon by thee? Why do but forthwith give up thy consent to Christ, to renounce thy Sins, deny thy self, take up the Yoke and the Cross, and thou carriest the day; Christ is thine, Pardon, Peace, Life, Blessedness, all are thine: And is not this an offer worth the embracing? Why shouldest thou hesitate, or doubtfully dispute about the case? Is it not past Controversie, whether God be better *than sin*, and *glory better than vanity*? Why shouldest thou forsake thine own Mercy, and sin against thine own Life? When wilt thou shake off thy sloth, and lay by thine excuses? *Boast not thy self of to morrow*, thou knowest not where this night may lodge thee, *Prov. 27. 1.*

Beloved, Now the holy Spirit is striving with you. He will not always strive. Hast thou not felt thy Heart warmed by the Word, and been almost persuaded to leave off thy Sins, and come in to God? Hast thou not felt some good motions in thy mind, wherein thou hast been warned of thy danger, and told what thy careless course would end in? It may be thou art like young *Samuel*, who when the Lord called

called once again, he knew not the Voice of the Lord, *1 Sam.* 3. 6, 7. but these motions and items are the offers, and Essays, and Calls, and strivings of the Spirit. O take the advantage of the tide, and know the day of thy visitation.

Now the Lord Jesus stretcheth wide his Armes to receive you. He beseecheth you by us. How movingly, how meltingly, how pitifully, how passionately he calleth! The Church is put into a sudden extasie upon the sound of his Voice, *The voice of my beloved, Cant.* 2. 8. O wilt thou turn a deaf Ear to his Voice? It is not the voice that breaketh the Cedars, and maketh the Mountains to skip like a Calf, that shaketh the Wilderness, and divideth the flames of Fire; it is not *Sinai's* Thunder, but the soft and still Voice. It is not the voice of Mount *Ebal*, a voice of cursing, and terror; but the voice of Mount *Gerizim*, the voice of Blessing, and of glad tidings of good Things. It is not the voice of the Trumpet, nor the noise of War, but a message of Peace from the King of Peace, *Eph.* 6. 15. *2 Cor.* 5. 18, 20. Methinks it should be with thee as with the Spouse; *My soul failed when he spake, Cant.* 5. 6. I may say to thee, O Sinner, as *Martha* to her Sister, *The Master is come, and he calleth for thee, John* 11. 28. O now with *Mary* arise quickly, and come unto him. How sweet are his Invitations! He cryeth in the open concourse, *If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink, John* 7. 37. *Prov.* 1. 21. He broacheth his own Body for thee. O come and lay thy mouth to his side. How free is he! he excludeth none. *Whosoever will, let him come and take the water of life freely, Rev.* 22. 17. *Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither. Come eat of my bread, drink of the wine, which I have mingled. For-sake the foolish, and live, Prov.* 9. 4, 5, 6. Come unto me, &c. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, and ye shall find rest unto your souls, *Mat.* 11. 28, 29. Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out, *John* 6. 37. How doth he bemoan the obstinate refuser? O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,

Jerusalem, *How often would I have gathered thy Children as a Hen gathereth her Chickens under her wings, and ye would not!* Mat. 23. 37. *Behold me, behold me: I have stretched out my hands all the day to a rebellious people,* Isa. 65. 1, 2. O be perswaded now at last, to throw your selves into the arms of love.

Behold, O ye Sons of Men, the Lord Jesus hath thrown open the Prisons, and now he cometh to you (as the Magistrates once to them, *Acts* 16. 39.) and beseecheth you to come out. If it were from a Palace, or a Paradise that Christ did call you, it were no wonder if you were unwilling (and yet, how easily was *Adam* tolled from thence?) but it is from your Prison, Sirs, from your Chains, from the Dungeon, from the Darkness, that he calleth you, *Isa.* 42. 6, 7. and yet will you not come? He calleth you unto Liberty, *Gal.* 5. 13. and yet will you not hear-ken? His Yoke is easie, his Laws are Liberty, his Service Freedom, *Mat.* 11. 30. *James* 1. 25. *1 Cor.* 7. 22. and (whatever Prejudices you have against his ways) if a God may be believed, you shall find them all Pleasure and Peace, and shall tast sweetness and joy unutterable, and take infinite delight and felicity in them, *Prov.* 3. 17. *Psal.* 119. 165. *1 Pet.* 1. 8. *Psal.* 119. 103, 111.

Beloved, I am loth to leave you. I cannot tell how to give you over. I am now ready to shut up, but fain I would drive this bargain between Christ and you, before I end. What! shall I leave you as I found you at last? Have you read hitherto, and are not yet resolved upon a present abandoning all your Sins, and closing with Jesus Christ? Alas, what shall I say? What shall I do? Will you turn off all my importunity? Have I run in vain? Have I used so many Arguments; and spent so much time to perswade you, and yet must sit down at last in disappointment? But it is a small matter that you turn me off: You put a slight upon the God that made you; you reject the bowels and beseechings of

a Saviour, and will be found resisters of the Holy Ghost, *Acts 7. 51.* If you will not now be prevailed with to repent and be converted.

Well, though I have called you long, and ye have refused, I shall yet this once more lift up my voice like a Trumpet, and cry from the highest places of the City, before I conclude with a miserable *Conclamatum est.* Once more I shall call after regardless Sinners, that if it be possible, I may awaken them. *O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord, Jer. 22. 29.* Unless you be resolved to die, lend your ears to the last calls of Mercy. Behold in the name of God I make open Proclamation to you. *Hearken unto me, O ye Children: Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not, Prov. 8. 32, 33.*

Ho, every one that thirsteth come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk, without money and without price. Wherefore do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight it self in fatness. Incline your ear and come ye unto me; hear, and your soul shall live, and I will make an everlasting Covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David, Isa. 55. 1, 2, 3.

Ho, every one that is Sick of any manner of Disease or Torment, *Mat. 4. 23, 24.* or is possessed with an evil spirit, whether of Pride, or fury, or Lust, or Covetousness, come ye to the Physician; bring away your sick. Lo, here is he that *healeth all manner of sickness, and all manner of disease among the people.*

Ho, every one that is in debt, and every one that is in distress, and every one that is discontented, gather your selves unto Christ, and he will become a Captain over you. He will be your protection from the arrests of the Law; He will save you from the hand of Justice. Behold he is an open Sanctuary to you, he is a known Refuge, *Heb. 6. 18. Psalm. 48. 3.* Away with your Sins, and come in unto him, lest the

the avenger of Blood seize you, lest devouring wrath overtake you.

Ho, every ignorant Sinner, come and by eye-salve, that thou mayst see, *Rev. 3. 18.* Away with thine Excuses; thou art for ever lost, if thou continuest in this Estate, *2 Cor. 4. 3.* But accept of Christ for thy Prophet, and he will be a light unto thee, *Isa. 42. 6.* *Eph. 5. 14.* Cry unto him for Knowledge, study his Word, take pains about the Principles of Religion, humble thy self before him, and he will teach thee his way, and make the wise unto salvation, *Mat. 13. 36.* *Luke 8. 9.* *John 5. 39.* *Psalms. 25. 9.* But if thou wilt not follow him, in the painful use of his means, but sit down, because thou hast but one Talent, he will condemn thee for a wicked and slothful Servant, *Mat. 25. 24, 26.*

Ho, every prophane Sinner, come in and live: Return unto the Lord, and he will have Mercy upon thee. Be intreated. O return, come: Thou that hast filled thy mouth with Oaths, and Execrations, all manner of Sins and Blasphemies shall be forgiven thee, *Mark 3. 28.* if thou wilt but thoroughly turn unto Christ, and come in. Though thou wast as unclean as *Magdalen*; yet put away thy Whoredoms out of thy sight, and thine adulteries from between thy breasts, and give up thy self unto Christ, as a vessel of holiness, alone for his use, and then, though thy sins be as scarlet, they shall be as wooll, and though they be as crimson, they shall be white as snow, *Luke 7. 37.* *Hos. 2. 2.* *1 Thes. 4. 4.* *Isa. 1. 18.*

Hear, O ye drunkards, How long will you be drunken: put away your wine, *1 Sam. 1. 14.* Though you have rolled in the vomit of your Sin, take the vomit of Repentance, and heartily disgorge your beloved Lusts, and the Lord will receive you, *2 Cor. 6. 17.* Give up your selves unto Christ, to live soberly, righteously and godly; embrace his Righteousness; accept his Government; and though you have been Swine he will wash you, *Rev. 1. 5.*

Hear, O ye loose Companions, whose delight is in vain and wicked Society, to sport away your time in carnal Mirth and Jollity with them, come in at Wisdom's call, and choose her, and her ways, and you shall live, *Prov. 9. 5, 6.*

Hear, O ye Scorners, hear the Word of the Lord: Though you have made a sport at Godliness, and the Professors thereof: though you have made a scorn of Christ, and of his ways; yet, even to you doth he call, to gather you under the wings of his Mercy, *Prov. 1. 22, 33.* In a word, though you should be found among the worst of that black Roll, *1 Cor. 6. 9, 10.* yet, upon your through Conversion, you shall be washed, you shall be justified, you shall be sanctified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God, *ver. 11.*

Ho, every formal Professor, that art but a lukewarm and dough-baked Christian, and retest in the form of Godliness, give over thy halving, and thy halting, be a throughout Christian, and be zealous and Repent, and then though thou hast been an offence to Christ's Stomach, thou shalt be the joy of his Heart, *Rev. 3. 16, 19, 20.*

And now bear witness, that Mercy hath been offered you. *I call Heaven and Earth to record against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that you may live, Deut. 30. 19.* I can but woo you, and warn you: I cannot compel you to be happy, if I could, I would. What answer will you send me with to my Master? Let me speak unto you as *Abraham's* Servant to them; and now if you will deal kindly and truly with *My Master*, tell me, *Gen. 24. 49.* O for such a happy answer, as *Rebekah* gave to them, *Gen. 24. 57, 58.* And they said, We will call the damsel, and inquire at her mouth: And they called *Rebekah*, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? and she said I will go. O that I had but thus much from you! Why should I be your Accuser, *Mat. 10. 14, 15.* who thirst for

your

your Salvation? Why should the passionate pleadings and wooings of Mercy be turned into the horrid aggravations of your obstinacy and additions to your Misery? Judge in your selves. Do you not think their Condemnation will be doubly dreadful, that shall still go on in their Sins, after all endeavours to recal them? Doubtless, *it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon, yea for Sodom and Gomorrah, in the day of Judgment, than for you,* Mat. 11. 22, 24.

Beloved, if you have any pity for your perishing Souls, close with the present offers of Mercy. If you would not continue and increase the pains of your travelling Ministers, do not stick in the birth. If the God that made you have any Authority with you, obey his Command and come in. If you are not the despisers of Grace, and would not shut up the doors of Mercy against your selves, repent and be converted, Let not Heaven stand open for you in vain. Let not the Lord Jesus open his wares, and bid you buy without Money and without Price, in vain. Let not his Ministers and his Spirit strive with you in vain, and leave you now at last unperswaded; lest the sentence go forth against you, *The Bellows are burnt, the Lead is consumed of the fire, the Founder melteth in vain. Reprobate Silver shall men call them, because the Lord hath rejected them,* Jer. 6. 29, 30.

Father of Spirits, take thou the heart in hand, that is too hard for my weakness. Do not thou have ended, though I have done. Half a word from thine effectual power, will do the work. O thou that hast the Key of David, that openest when no man shutteth, open thou this heart as thou didst Lydia's, and let the King of glory enter in: And make this soul thy captive. Let not the tempter harrow him in delays. Let him not stir from this place, nor take his eyes from these lines till he be resolved to forego his sins, and to accept of life upon thy self-denying terms. In thy name O Lord God, did I go forth to these Labours, in thy name do I shut them up. Let not all the time that they have cost, be but lost hours; let not all the thoughts of heart,

heart, and all the pains that have been about them, be but lost labour. Lord put in thine hand into the heart of this Reader, and send thy Spirit, as once thou didst Philip, to join himself to the Chariot of the Eunuch, while he was reading the Word. And though I should never know it while I live, yet I beseech thee, Lord God, let it be found at that day, that some souls are converted by these labours, and let some be able to stand forth and say, that by these persuasions, they were won unto thee. Amen, Amen. Let him that readeth say, Amen.

*Mr. Alleine's Counsel for Personal and
Family-godliness.*

Beloved, I despair of ever bringing you to salvation without sanctification : Or possessing you of happiness, without persuading you to holiness. God knows I have not the least hope ever to see one of your faces in Heaven, except you be converted and sanctified, and exercise your selves unto godliness. I beseech you study *personal godliness*, and *family godliness*.

1. *Personal godliness*, Let it be your first care to set up Christ in your hearts. See that you make all your worldly interests to stoop to him, that you be entirely and unreservedly devoted unto him. If you wilfully, and deliberately, and ordinarily harbour any Sin, you are undone, *Psal. 68. 21. Ezek. 18. 20.* See that you unfeignedly take the Laws of Christ, as the rule of your words, thoughts and Actions; and subject your whole Man, members and mind, faithfully to him, *Psal. 119. 34. Rom. 6. 13.* If you have not a true respect to all God's Commandments, you are unsound at heart. *Psal. 119. 6.* O study to get the Image and Impress of Christ upon you within. Begin with your hearts, else you build without a Foundation,

Foundation. Labour to get a saving change within, or else all external performances will be to no purpose. And then study to shew forth the power of godliness in the Life. Let Piety be your first and great business. 'Tis the highest point of Justice, to give God his due. Beware that none of you be a Prayer-less Person; for that is a most certain discovery of a Christless and a Graceless Person, of one that is a very Stranger to the fear of God. *Psal.* 14. 4. *Job* 15, 4. Suffer not your Bibles to gather dust. See that you converse daily with the Word, *John* 5. 39. That Man can never lay claim to blessedness, whose delight is not in the Law of the Lord, *Psal.* 1. 1, 2. Let meditation and self-examination be your daily exercise.

But Piety, without Charity, is but the half of Christianity, or rather impious Hypocrisie. We may not divide the *Tables*. See therefore that you do justly, and love Mercy, and let Equity and Charity run like an even Thread, throughout all your dealings. Be you temperate in all things, and let Chastity and Sobriety be your undivided Companions. Let Truth and Purity, Seriousness and Modesty, Heavenliness and Gravity, be the constant Ornaments of your Speech. Let Patience and Humility, Simplicity and Sincerity, shine out in all the parts of your Conversations. See that you forget and forgive Wrongs, and requite them with kindness, as you would be found Children of the most High. Be merciful in your Censures, and put the most favourable construction upon your Brethrens Carriage, that their Actions will reasonably bear. Be slow in promising, punctual in fulfilling. Let meekness and innocency, affableness, yieldingness and courtesie, commend your Conversations to all Men. Let none of your Relations want that Love and Loyalty, that Reverence and Duty, that tenderness, care and vigilancy, which their several places and capacities call for. This is throughout godliness. I charge you before the most High God,

that none of you be found a Swearer, or a Lyar, a lover of evil Company, or a Scoffer, or Malicious, or Covetous, or a Drunkard, or a Glutton, unrighteous in his Dealing, unclean in his living, or a Quarreller, or a Thief, or a Back-biter, or a Railer: For I denounce unto you from the living God, that destruction and damnation is the end of all such, *Prov.* 13. 20. *Jam.* 5. 12. *Rev.* 21. 8. *1 Cor.* 6. 9, 10. *Gal.* 5. 19, 20, 21.

2. *Family godliness.* He that hath set up Christ in his Heart, will be sure to study to set him up in his house. Let every Family with you be a Christian Church; *1 Cor.* 16. 19. every house a house of Prayer; let every householder say, with *Joshua*, *I and my house will serve the Lord*, *Josh.* 24. 15. and resolve with *David*, *I will walk within my house with a perfect heart*, *Psal.* 101. 2. Let me press upon you a few Duties. In general,

First, Let Religion be in your Families, not as a matter by the by (to be minded at leisure, when the World will give you leave) but the standing business of the House. Let them have your Prayers as duly as their Meals. Is there any of your Families, but have time for their taking food? Wretched Man! Canst thou find time to eat in, and not find time to pray in.

Secondly, Settle it upon your Hearts, that your Souls are bound up in the Souls of your Family. They are committed unto you, and (if they be lost through your neglect) will be required at your hands. Sirs, If you do not, you shall know, that the charge of Souls is a heavy charge, and that the blood of Souls is a heavy Guilt. O Man, hast thou a charge of Souls to answer for, and dost thou not yet bestir thy self for them, that their blood be not found in thy Skirts? Wilt thou do no more for immortal Souls than thou wilt do for thy Beasts that perish? What dost thou do for thy Children, and Servants? Thou providest Meat and Drink for them, agreeable to their Natures,
and

and dost thou not the same for thy Beasts? Thou givest them Medicines, and cherishest them when they be Sick, and dost thou not as much for thy Swine? More particularly,

1. Let the solemn reading of the Word, and singing of Psalms, be your Family exercise, *Isa.* 34. 16. *John* 5. 39. *Psal.* 118. 15. [See Christ singing with his Family, viz. his Disciples, *Mat.* 26. 30. *Mark.* 14. 26.

2. Let every Person in your Families be duly called to an account, of their profiting by the Word heard or read, as they be about doing your own business. This is a duty of consequence unspeakable, and would be a means to bring those under your charge to remember and profit by what they receive. See Christ's Example in calling his Family to an account, *Mat.* 16. 11, 13, 15.

3. Often take an account of the Souls under your care, concerning their Spiritual Estates; [Herein you must be followers of Christ, *Mat.* 13. 51. *Mark.* 4. 10, 11.] make inquiry into their Conditions, insist much upon the sinfulness and misery of their natural Estate, and upon the necessity of Regeneration and Conversion, in order to their Salvation. Admonish them gravely of their Sins, encourage beginnings. Follow them earnestly, and let them have no quiet for you, till you see them in a saving change. This is a duty of high Consequence, but (I am afraid) fearfully neglected. Doth not Conscience say, thou art the Man?

4. Look to the strict sanctifying of the Sabbath by all your households, *Exod.* 20. 19. *Lev.* 23. 3. Many poor Families have little time else. O improve but your Sabbath days as diligently in labouring for Knowledge, and doing your Makers work, as you do the other days in doing your own work, and I doubt not but you may come to some proficiency.

5. Let

5. Let the Morning and Evening Sacrifice of solemn Prayer be daily offered up in all your Families, *Psal.* 92. 1, 2. *Exod.* 30. 7, 8. *Luke* 1. 9, 10. Beware they be not found among the Families that call not upon God's Name; for why should there be wrath from the Lord upon your Families? *Jer.* 10. 25. O miserable Families, without God in the World, that are without Family-Prayer! what! have you so many Family-Sins, Family-Wants, Family-Mercies, what! and yet no Family-Prayers? How do you pray with all Prayer and Supplication, if you do not with Family-Prayer? *Eph.* 6. 18. Say not, I have no time. What, hast thou all thy time on purpose to serve God, and save thy Soul? And yet is this it for which thou canst find no time? Find but a heart, and I will find time. Pinch out of your Meals, and Sleep, rather than want for Prayer. Say not, My business will not give leave. This is the greatest business to save thy self, and the Souls committed to thee. Besides, a whet will be no let. In a word, the blessing of all is to be got by Prayer, *Jer.* 29. 11, 12. 2 *Sam.* 7. 29. and what is thy business without God's Blessing? Say not, I am not able. Use the one Talent, and God will increase, *Mat.* 25. 24, &c. Helps are to be had, till thou art better able. But if there be no other Remedy, thou must join with thine abler Neighbour, God hath special regard to joint-Prayer, *James* 5. 14. to 19. *Acts* 12. 5, 12. 2 *Cor.* 1. 11. and therefore you must improve family advantages for the performing of it.

6. Put every one in your Families upon private Prayer. Observe whether they do perform it. Get them the help of a form, if they need it, till they are able to go without it. Direct them how to pray, by minding them of their Sins, Wants, and Mercies, the materials of Prayer. This was the practice of *John*, and of *Jesus*, *Luke* 11. 1, 2, &c.

7. Set up Catechising in your Families, at the least once every Week. Have you no dread of the Almighty

ties charge, that you should *teach these things diligently to your children, and talk of them as you sit in your houses, &c.* Deut. 6. 6, 7, 8, 9. and 4. 9, 10, and 11. 18, 19, 20. and *train them up in the way wherein they should go,* Prov. 22. 6. the Margin. Hath God so commended *Abraham*, that he would teach *his children and household*, Gen. 18. 19. and that he had many *instructed Servants*, Gen. 14. 14. see the Margin, and given such a promise to him thereupon; and will not you put in for a share, neither in the praise, nor the promise? Hath Christ honoured Catechising with his Presence? *Luke 2. 46.* and will you not own it with your Practice? Say not, They are careless, and will not learn: What have you your Authority for, if not to use it for God, and the good of their Souls? You will call them up, and force them to do your work; and should you not at least be as zealous in putting them upon God's Work? Say not, They are dull, and are not capable: If they be dull, God requires of you the more Pains and Patience; but so dull as they are, you will make them to learn how to work; and can they not learn as well how to live? Are they capable of the mysteries of your Trade, and are they not capable of the plain Principles of Religion? Well, as ever you would see the growth of Religion, the cure of Ignorance, the remedy of Prophaneness, the downfall of Error, fulfil you my joy in going through with this Duty.

Will you answer the calls of Divine Providence? would you remove the incumbent, or prevent the impending Calamities? Would you plant Nurseries for the Church of God? Would you, that God should build your Houses, and bless your Substance? Would you, that your Children should bless you? That your Servants should bless you? O then set up Piety in your Families as ever you would be blessed, or be a blessing; let your Hearts and your Houses be the Temples of the living God, in which his worship
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(according to all the forementioned directions) may be, with constancy, reverently performed, Prov. 29. 1. *He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.* O be wise in time, that you be not miserable to Eternity.

Useful Questions, whereby a Christian may every day examine himself.

Psal. 4. 4. Commune with your hearts upon your beds.

EVERY Evening, before you sleep (unless you find some other time of the day more for your Advantage in this Work) sequester your selves from the World, and having set your Heart in the presence of the Lord, charge it before God to answer to these Interrogatories.

For Your Duties.

Q. 1. Did not God find me on my Bed, when he looked for me on my Knees? Job 1. 5. Psal. 5. 3.

Q. 2. Have not I prayed to no purpose, or suffered wandring thoughts to eat out my duties? Mat. 15. 8, 9. Jer. 12. 2.

Q. 3. Have not I neglected or been very overly in the reading God's holy Word? Deut. 17. 19. Josh. 1. 7, 8, 9.

Q. 4. Have I digested the Sermon I heard last? Have I repeated it over, and prayed it over? Luke 2. 19, 51. Psal. 1. 2. and 119. 5, 11, 97.

Q. 5. Was there not more of custom and fashion in my family-duties than of Conscience? Psal. 101. 2. Jer. 30. 21.

Q. 6. Wherein have I denied my self this day for God? Luke 9. 23.

Q. 7. Have I redeemed my time from too long or needless visits, idle imaginations, fruitless discourse, unnecessary sleep, more than needs of the World? Eph. 5. 16. Col. 4. 5.

Q. 8. Have I done any thing more than ordinary for the Church of God, in this time extraordinary? 2 Cor. 11. 28. Isa. 62. 6.

Q. 9. Have I took care of my company? Prov. 13. 20. Psal. 119. 63.

Q. 10. Have not I neglected or done something against the duties of my Relations, as a Master, Servant, Husband, Wife, Parent, Child, &c. Eph. 5. 22. to Chap. 6. v. 10. Col. 3. 18. to the 4. ver. 2.

For your Sins.

Q. 1. Doth not sin sit light? Psal. 38. 4. Rom. 7. 24.

Q. 2. Am I a mourner for the sins of the Land? Ezek. 9. 4. Jer. 9. 1, 2, 3.

Q. 3. Do I live in nothing that I know or fear to be a sin? Psal. 119. 101, 104.

For your Heart.

Q. 1. Have I been much in holy Ejaculations? Neh. 2. 4, 5.

Q. 2. Hath not God been out of mind: Heaven out of sight? Psal. 16. 8. Jer. 2. 32. Col. 3. 1, 2.

Q. 3. Have I been often looking into mine own heart, and made Conscience even of vain thoughts? Prov. 4. 23. Psal. 119. 113.

Q. 4. Have not I given way to the workings of pride, or passion? 2 Chron. 32. 26. James 4. 5, 6, 7.

For your Tongue.

Q. 1. Have I bridled my Tongue, and forced it in? Jam. 1. 26. Jam. 3. 2, 3, 4. Psal. 39. 1.

- Q. 2. *Have I spoken evil of no man,* Tit. 3. 2. Jam. 4. 11.
- Q. 3. *Hath the Law of the Lord been in my mouth as I sate in my house, went by the way, was lying down, and rising up!* Deut. 6. 6, 7.
- Q. 4. *Is there no company I come into, but I have dropped something of God, and left some good savour behind?* Col. 4. 6. Eph. 4. 29.

For your Table.

- Q. 1. *Did not I sit down with no higher end than a beast, meerly to please my Appetite? did I eat and drink to the glory of God?* 1 Cor. 10. 31.
- Q. 2. *Was not my Appetite too hard for me?* Jude 12. 2 Pet. 1. 6.
- Q. 3. *Did not I arise from the Table without dropping any thing of God there?* Luke 7. 36. &c. Luke 14. 1, &c. John 6.
- Q. 4. *Did not I mock God, when I pretended to crave a blessing, and return thanks?* Acts 27. 35, 36. Mat. 15. 36. Col. 3. 17, 23.

For your Calling.

- Q. 1. *Have I been diligent in the duties of my Calling?* Ecclef. 9. 10. 1 Cor. 7. 17, 20, 24.
- Q. 2. *Have I defrauded no man?* 1 Thes. 4. 6. 1 Cor. 6. 8.
- Q. 3. *Have I dropped never a lye in my Shop, or Trade?* Prov. 28. 6. Eph. 4. 25.
- Q. 4. *Did not I rashly make, nor falsely break some promise?* Psal. 106. 33. Josh. 9. ver. 14, &c. Psal. 15. 4.

An Addition of some brief Directions for the Morning.

- D. 1. *If through necessity or carelessness you have omitted the reading and weighing of these questions in the Evening, be sure to do it now.*

D. 2.

D. 2. *Ask your self, What sin have I committed? What duty have I omitted? against which of these Rules have I offended in the day foregoing? and renew your Repentance, and double your watch.*

D. 3. *Examine whether God were last in your thoughts when you went to sleep; and first, when you awoke.*

D. 4. *Enquire whether your care of your heart and ways doth increase upon your constant using of this course for self-examination; or whether it doth abate; and you grow more remiss.*

D. 5. *Impose a task of some good meditation upon your selves, while you are making ready, either to go over these Rules in your thoughts, or the heads of the Sermon you heard last, or the holy Meditation for that purpose, in the Practice of Piety, or Scudder's Daily Walk.*

D. 6. *Set your ends right for all that day.*

D. 7. *Set your watch especially against those sins and temptations that you are like to be most incident to that day.*

Divers Practical Cases of Conscience Satisfactorily Resolved.

- I. *Wherein should Christians be singular in their Obedience? Or what may they, and must they, do more than others!*
- II. *What may and must a Christian be, and do that he may please God?*
- III. *Whether any Man is able, in this Life, to come up to the Example of Christ in this, to do always those things that please God?*
- IV. *What Weariness in, and Unwillingness to, Duties, may stand with Grace, and what not?*

To which are added some
COUNSELS and CORDIALS.

Quest. I. **W** Herein should Christians be singular in their Obedience? Or what may they, and must they do more than others?

A. Take the Answer in these Sixteen Rules, containing the Character and Compass of a Christian—

Rule I. Heartily to love them that slight you, and to wish and seek the good of those that hate you, and seek to hurt you: This is the very thing urged in the Text; If you salute your Brethren only, and love them that love you,

you, do not even the Publicans the same? Mat. 5. 44;
46. To love them that do respect and value us, this every one can do: But to love them truly, that think meanly of us, and have prejudices and hard thoughts against us, and to speak well of them that speak evil of us, as the sweet spirited Calvin; [*Let Luther call me Dog or Devil, I will say of him nevertheless, he is a precious servant of Christ Jesus:*] This is to do more than others. Thus the Martyr Cranmer, of whom it was a Proverb [*Do the Bishop of Canterbury a displeasure, and you shall ever have him your Friend.*] Thus that Holy Man, in his much to be admired parting words, [*I had never any greater pleasure in all my life than to forget and forgive injuries, and to shew kindness to them that sought evil to me.*] Study who have offended you, and disoblged you, and slighted you, and keep up good thought of them, (if the case will bear it) and speak nothing but good of them, and think what kindness you may shew them: *Pray for them, wish well to them, so shall you be the Children of your Father which is in Heaven,* Mat. 5. 45.

Rule II. *To swim against the Stream of the multitude.* The dead fish will swim with, but the living against the Stream! Many will turn Jews when their interest will carry it in the World: When Religion is in fashion, every one will be in it: But to bear head against the current of the times, and to be for strict Godliness in all your ways, when the Stream runs quite against it, to bear it down, and to resolve as David did, *to be yet more vile,* this is to be, and to do more than others. The Samaritans will needs be Jews, when Alexander favours and helps them, but when Antiochus bloodily rages against them, (as in the time of the Maccabees) then they will be none of the kind, but pretend themselves to be of another stock; (which by-the way, was the reason of the deadly hatred afterwards between the Jews and them. But to be singular in your good choice and resolutions, with Joshua, though all should vote against you with one consent,

and with *Noah* to be perfect in our generations, when never so adulterous, and to walk with God when all flesh have corrupted their way, and tread a contrary course, this is to do more than others. Thus the three Children (or rather the three Champions) who would not fear the flouts of the multitude, nor the frowns of the great ones, nor the charge of singularity, but when all the Princes, Governors, Captains, Counsellors, Sheriffs, and all the People, Nations, and Languages, fell down and worshipped, they stood by themselves, and would not sinfully comply, *Dan. 3. 3, 7, 18.*

Rule III. *To take most care of that which is most out of sight.* A Christians Eye is most on the things least seen; first upon his heart, herein he doth exceed the Righteousness of the Pharisees, whose great care was to keep all fair and clean that came to view, but looked no farther: Make great Conscience of your carriage in secret, and let your main guard be upon your Hearts, and this will be more than others reach to. This was *Paul's* care, to keep his Conscience, his inside clean and undefiled, *Acts 24. 16.* And *Jobs* care, that though all the World did reproach him, he might not put a reproach in the mouth of his Conscience, *Job 27. 6.* and *David's* care that his heart might be clean. 2. Upon his hope. Others look to the things seen, things in hand: But the true Believer eyes his hopes, walks by Faith, not by Sight; and lives a quite different life from any others in the World, besides: As living upon the hopes of Heaven, doth differ from living on the Pleasures, Profits, and Honours of this World.

Rule IV. *To be merciful to others failings, and very severe to our own.* The Noble Roman *Cato* could more easily forgive any than himself. To aggravate our own evils, and to have an excuse ready for our Brothers, and to censure our selves freely, and to come with the mantle behind us to cover our Brother, this is to do more than others. The Hypocrite is a cen-

suret

sure abroad: He is like the eye that can see any thing but it self: He can discern a moat in his Brothers Eye, but not a Beam in his own. But the Servant of God rebukes others with meekness, but falls out easily and bitterly with himself.

Rule V. *To suffer rather than to sin.* This was *Moses's* choice, but the Hypocrite's is quite contrary; he chooseth iniquity rather than affliction: To go so far with Christ as our way lies together, is to do no more than an unsound Professor may reach to: The Tryal is when Christ's interest and ours do cross, and we must either baulk our Duty, or our safety and advantage. The famous Martyr under *Julian*, would not give one half-penny towards the building of the Idols Temple, though he was offered his Life by the Emperor on those Terms. The Godly High Priest *Eleazer*, when the Nobles perswaded him to eat other Meat under colour of Swines Flesh, and they would perswade the King *Antiochus*, that he had eaten Swines Flesh, would die rather than stain his Profession with the appearance of evil. When a Man shall lie in outward misery, and have a door of deliverance open, if he will but Sin, and yet he will not accept of it, as those Worthies in *Paul's* Martyrology; this is to do more than others, *Heb. 11. 35.*

Rule VI. *To rejoyce in losses for Christ, and glory in the Cross.* When others be discouraged at the news of hardship, as that forward and seemingly resolved Disciple: Or shall be offended as soon as the Sun of persecution is up. When we shall Take pleasure in infirmities, in tribulations, and rejoyce, that we are counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Christ; this is to do more than others. When the Servants of God shall not only patiently but triumphantly undergo the Crosses, that crack the Brains, and break the hearts of others, and shall shake off the Viper without receiving any hurt; when *Paul* and *Silas* shall sing in the Stocks, and the resolved Martyrs shall embrace the Faggots, and kiss the Stake: When the Valiant

Philpot shall say of his Prison [*In the judgment of the World we are in Hell, but I find in it the sweet consolation of Heaven*] and the Holy *Bradford* [*My Prison is sweeter to me than any Parlour, than any Pleasure I have had in all my life,*] This is indeed to exceed others.

Rule VII. *To be good when we shall be evil spoken of for our labour.* A *Pharisee* will do those Duties that will gain applause with Men, but to take up with despised Duties, disgraceful Duties, and with *David* to be Religious, when it shall render him *Vile*; this is to do more than others. The *Philosopher* could say, *It is noble indeed, for a man to do well, when he knows he shall hear ill for it.* To take up Religion when every one kicks it off, to stand up alone with *Luther* for the truth, when the whole World is gone a wandering after the Whore: To have his hand against every Man, and to be for *Christ*, with *Athanasius*, against the whole Universe; this is indeed to do some singular thing.

Rule VIII. *To strike in with God's interest when it is falling.* To join our selves with the Lord's People, when it is the weakest; to espouse their interest with *Moses*, when they were in deep Affliction, *Heb. 11. 25, 26.* To own our selves to be some of them, undauntly, when *this way is every where spoken against*; this is to tread Antipodes to the course of this World.

Rule IX. *To be most cruel to the sin, that is naturally most dear.* The Hypocrite hides his sweet morsel under his Tongue, he spares as it were the fattest of the Cattel, he saith, *The Lord pardon his Servant concerning this thing*: But when a Man shall off with his right hand, out with his right eye, serve his *Absolom* as *Joab* did, when he took three Darts and thrust thorow his Heart, this is to do more than others. The sincere Christian is most angry with the Sin of his Temper; against this he aims the arrows of all his Prayers. *He keeps him from his iniquity, he drives the whole herd of sin*

sin before him, but especially shoots at, and singles out this to run it down.

Rule X. *To live upon the divine promises when others live upon their Possessions.* Others are all for what is in hand, with them, words are but Wind; they cannot live upon them: The promises are to them a barren heath, and dry breasts: But when we make the promises our heritage, the Staff of our Life, the Life of our Hearts, when the promises are the bottle we run to in all our faintings: And while others hope in their *Wealth*, our hope is in the Word; this is to do more than others.

Rule XI. *To love that best, and choose it soonest, which doth cross the flesh most.* The godly Man's rule is to take the self denying side, so he be sure it be safe: when others study is to please themselves, his is to curb himself: The life of others is a flesh-pleasing, his a self-denying Life: Others joy is, when they can gratify themselves, his, when he can get victory over himself.

Rule XII. *To be most hot in that wherein self is least concerned.* Paul is meek as a Lamb under personal injuries, 1 Cor. 4. 12. Acts 17. 16. but how is his Spirit stirred when God is dishonoured? A Man of Understanding is of a cool Spirit, that is, in his own Concern: But Moses the meek waxes hot with indignation at the sight of the Calf. To be hot and forward in those Duties where the Flesh's interest is concerned, is to do more than a *Jehu*, 2 Kings 10. 16, 30.

Rule XIII. *To make a true conscience of the least sins, but most conscience of the greatest.* In one of these will the Hypocrite be found tardy. It may be he will fly from open Sins, and startle at gross staring Sins; but of little Sins he makes little Conscience: This he allows of and connives at. Or else he will be very tender of little things, scruple the picking the Ears of Corn on the Sabbath-day, or the curing of the sick; and strain at the Gnat, when he will in other things swallow a Camel, devour Widows Houses. The

sincere will indulge no Sin; grieve for, groans under, cries out feelingly against his very infirmities; but most dreads what God most hates.—

Rule XIV. *To allow your selves in the neglect of no duty, but to reserve your zeal for the duties of most weight.* To tith Mint, and Cummin, and neglect Judgment, Mercy, and Faith; to be zealous for humane Ceremonies, Ordinances, and Mens Traditions, and omit the weightier matters of the Law, is right the *Pharisees* guise, *Mat. 23. 23. Mat. 15. 2.* To eye both the Tables, to join sweetly together morality and Piety, to be punctual with Men, but not careless of God; to give to *Cesar* the things that are *Cesar's*, but first to give to God the things that be God's, this is to do more than others. The sincere Christian hath respect to all God's Commandments; walks in all his Statutes; he is throughout with God, but he is most zealous in those things that lie next the heart of Religion.

Rule XV. *To love your Reprovers.* Herein David doth more than *Ahab*, see their contrary frames, *1 Kings 22. 8. Psalm. 141. 5.*

Rule XVI. *To subject all your worldly interest to your Makers Glory,* and perform holy Duties with holy ends, and while others do their best Actions with carnal aims, you must do your common and civil Actions with heavenly aims.

Q. How may we know whether we be, and do more than others that are unsound?

I shall answer this Question, by propounding eight Questions to you, beseeching you to retire to the most solemn and strict Examination, and make Conscience to give a clear answer to these few Interrogatories, and that will resolve the Case.

Q. 1. When others do pick and choose, have you respect to all God's Commandments? The Hypocrite may have great respect to the Comforts, but he hath little to the Commands of Religion: He is much for the Priviledges and Promises; little for the Precepts and Duties:

Duties: He is partial in the Law: He will take but here and there where he likes, and where God's Commands will serve his interest, or at least will not pinch too hard upon the Flesh. The sound Christian sets all God's Commands before him: He eyes all his Copy, and heartily designs and studies a throughout Conformity: He hath no starting holes, no contrived haunts; nor doth he halt between the Lord and *Baal*; nor serve two Masters: He doth not fear the Lord and serve other Gods; nor divide his service between God and Mammon, but he is all for uniformity, and entirely devoted to God's Service and Fear alone: He hath a good Conscience willing in all things to live honestly, and doth truly, tho' not perfectly, forsake all his Sins, and keep all God's Statutes that are known to him: Let me therefore ask you two Questions; (1.) When others divide the Tables, do you sweetly conjoin them in your Practice? The Hypocrite, it may be, is *just* and *square* towards Men, but follow him to his Family or Closet, you shall find but little of God: His Family is neglected, his Soul is neglected: Or it may be he is a forward first-table Man, but you shall find him tardy in the second. He will make many Prayers and long Prayers, yet make no Conscience of devouring Widows Houses. He is a great pretender to Piety, but mean while neglects Judgment and Mercy. The Sincere join all together: He is so far careful of Justice with Men, that mean while he will not neglect the first and great part of Justice, *viz.* To give God his due. He doth justly, he loves Mercy, but withal walks humbly with God: He walketh soberly, with respect to himself, righteously towards his Neighbour, and godly towards his Maker. He is not one of those that are good only on their Knees, but you shall find him every where conscientious: You shall have temperance at his Table, chastity and modesty in his Behaviour, grace and truth in his Works, charity in his deeds, faithfulness in his Trust, justice in his Dealings. He doth not only seem

to be Religious, but bridle his Tongue ; He is not only a good *Christian*, but a good *Neighbour*, not only a good *Man*, but a good *Husband*, a good *Master*, a *dutiful Child*, a *diligent and faithful Servant*, a good *Subject*. In a word, he makes great Conscience of discharging the Duties of his relations among Men.]

(2.) When others stick in *externals*, do you look to the *spiritual* part of every Command, and principally mind the inwards and vitals of Religion? Do you not only make Conscience of performing Duties, but do you carefully look to the *manner* of performing of them, and the ends for which you do perform them? Do you not only make Conscience of open, but of secret Sins? Do you abound above all in secret Duties? Do you keep a watch upon your Hearts, and make Conscience not only of the gross acts of Sin, but even of sinful thoughts, inclinations and desires? And are grieved even with your very infirmities, and the corrupt disposition of your Natures, which you cannot help though you would? —

Q. II. *When others have their reserves in closing with Christ*, do you give up all to him intirely? Have you taken Christ, not hand over head, but deliberately, understandingly, sitting down first, and counting the cost? Have you not secret reserves for your own ease, safety, estates, esteem, or for some beloved Sin? Have you upon solemn consideration accepted Christ as the Lord your Righteousness, for better for worse, for all changes of times and conditions? To run all hazards with him, and to take your lot with him, fall as it will?

Q. III. *When others are for a little of Religion by the by*, do you make Religion your business? Do you not put off God with the Worlds leavings? And serve him when you are at leisure? Must not God stand by, while the World is first served? And are not your Souls the least of your cares? And put off with some *by-scraps*, and *ends* of your time? Is Religion your Trade, and is your Conversation in Heaven?

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Do you *walk with God*? Or have you only now and then a turn with him? When you have ended your Prayers, is there an end of your Religion till you come to them again? Or do you carry on a design of Religion throughout your whole course? Have you only a list of Religion at the outside of the piece? Or is the Woof of Religion woven into the whole cloath? Into Heart and Life? Into your Discourse, and Trades, and Tables? Do you first seek the *Kingdom of God and the Righteousness thereof*? Is it the chief care of your lives, that God be served, and your souls be saved? And is this the one thing Necessary with you, that you chiefly mind, and are most solicitous about? Do your very hearts say with *David*, *One thing have I desired of the Lord, that I will seek after, &c.*

Q. IV. *When others are for the wages of Religion, are you for the work?* Can you say with *David*, *I have chosen thy Precepts*? Do your Hearts come off freely in this choice? Had you rather be holy than otherwise, if you were at your choice? Had you rather be God's Servants, and live at his Command, than at your own Lusts? Do you count the Laws of Christ your Heritage? or rather, do you not count them your Bondage? Do you choose not only the *wages* of Righteousness, but the *ways* of Righteousness? Are God's Commandments your *delight*? And are the *sweetest hours* of your lives the hours you spend with him? Do you never enjoy your selves so much as when you most enjoy God? Is his service the greatest Comfort, and is it meat and drink to you to do his will (unless when you are not your selves in the time of temptation or desertion?) Do you make use of holy Duties only as Men do of Physick, when they are ill at ease, when Conscience latheth, or affliction stings, as it were, to conjure down the frightful Furies? Or to pacifie God, that he may not hurt you? Or else do you use them as your daily bread, and the very staff of your Life, and means of your Comforts?

Q. V. When others are for the cheap and easie Religion, are you for self-denial? When others are for the Religion that will serve them best, are you for that which will serve God best? When others are all upon the sparing hand, and will spare what may be spared, and study how they may best save charges in going to Heaven, are you of Princely Spirits, to resolve not to serve the Lord with that which will cost you nothing? Is your course of Religion such as doth put your Flesh to it, and cross and curb its desires? Or do you love to give it what it craves, and suffer it to take its own way? Have you no Enemy you dread so much as self? Do you pamper and please it, and make provision for it? Or do you pray and watch against it, and grieve for its unhappy infirmities in your Actions? And had rather than all the World that this Enemy were under your feet.

Q. VI. When others are for no more of Religion than needs must, are you for the height of Religion? The Hypocrite (as one well) is very inquisitive what is the lowest pitch that a Man may have, and go to Heaven, and upon this design, if he could find but this, he would look no farther: But the sincere Christian, though satisfied that his state is safe, will rest in no attainments in Grace, but reaches forward and presses on, if it were possible, to attain to the resurrection of the Dead. He that doth not desire, and design, and endeavour perfection, never yet came up to sincerity. A true Believer desires holiness for holiness sake, and therefore is set upon perfecting holiness; Others desire it only for Heavens sake, and therefore are only for so much as will bear their charges thither; others make use of Holiness only as a bridge to Heaven, and therefore are for no more than will just serve their turn.

* The true Believer hath a holy Nature, and therefore
Holiness

* And they have a false notion of Heaven it self, else they might justly desire it, as the end of their present holiness, it being the fruition of God in perfect holiness.

Holiness is his Element and natural Employment? And he must needs desire Holiness in its height, because every nature reaches after perfection in its kind: The godly desires not Holiness, because it is the way to Heaven, but he loves Heaven the better for the holy way that leads to it, and for the perfect Holiness which is there.

Q. VII. When others are all for the Salvation of Christ, are you as truly for Sanctification by Christ? Do you take Christ as God offers him with all his Offices and Benefits, to be both a Prince and a Saviour, to give you Repentance as well as remission of Sins? Are you willing of the dominion of Christ, as well as deliverance by Christ? Do you close with his Burden, as well as his Benefits? Do you count his Laws your Liberty? His Government, not your Bondage but your Priviledge? His Service your Freedom? Do you go in Christ's ways, as in Jives or Fetters? Or do you run with enlargement of Heart, delight or real willingness?

*Q. VIII. When others do make self their end, do you set up God above all as your highest end? The Hypocrite doth the same Duties with the Godly, but with different ends: He eats for himself, and fasts for himself, and prays with no better than self-ends, and therefore is rejected. Now is it your great design in your whole course, to glorifie God, and enjoy God? Do you count this your whole business and blessedness? Do you make other business to stoop to this? Other interests to yield to this? Do your Souls breathe after this above all worldly good, that Christ may be magnified in you? Do you count your name and your estate as loss? And the delights of sense but puddle-water in comparison of Christ? If Conscience give in a comfortable and clear answer to these Questions, go in peace: Blessed are you of the Lord; God is your Friend; Heaven is your Heritage. The promises are your Portion. Christ is yours, all is yours, for he that doth these things shall never be moved, *Psal. 15. 5.**

A Necessary Case on 1 Thes. 4. 1.

Q. **W**Hat may, and must a Christian be, and do, that he may please God?

Ans. *To your pleasing of God something is necessary as to your Persons or Estates, and something as to your performance and acts.*

First, As to your Persons or Estates, it is Necessary in general, that you be in a State of Reconciliation with God: If you would walk worthy of the Lord unto All-pleasing, you must first be Friends with him, for how can two walk together except they be agreed? Get the Controversie taken up between God and thee, and then thou shalt with Levi, walk with God in peace. Labour to get the breaches made up, to have the enmity slain, to have divine displeasure removed; till thy pardon be obtained, and thy peace made, nothing thou canst do will please God, he will be angry with thy Person, and angry with thy Prayers: What a tart Message is that to impenitent Sinners? Mal. 1. 10. God cannot take pleasure in their Persons; I have no pleasure in you saith the Lord of Hosts;] nor in any of their performances; neither will I accept an offering at your hand.] He professeth, that his Soul had no delight in them, and tells them, they are unto him as a Vessel wherein there is no pleasure, Gen. 22. 28. It's the modest Expression of that Vessel into which Nature empties it self. Come in then, and touch the golden Scepter, yield to Mercy, kiss the Son, resign to Christ: Accept of the peace tendred you in the Word of Reconciliation, and then God will be Friends. More particularly, that you may be in a State of Reconciliation, and so in a capacity of pleasing God, you must follow these Directions.

I. Put off every Sin: It is your iniquity that separateth between you and your God: This is the makebate. If thou wouldst have God pleased, turn every

Sin

Sin out of doors, pluck it out, cast it from thee: If thou regard iniquity in thine heart, God will not hear thee, nor regard thee, Psal. 66. 8: If thou art of them that have pleasure in unrighteousness, the Lord hath no pleasure in thee. He is not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness, evil shall not dwell with him: The foolish shall not stand in his sight: He hateth all the workers of Iniquity. See that thou abandon every Sin that thou knowest, spare not one *Agag*, not a right Eye, not an *Herodias*; for then God will not spare thee: Give the Darling of thy Bosom a Bill of Divorce: Say to all thy Idols, *Get thee hence*. God will not look to that Man, that looks pleasantly upon any Sin. The jealous God will not endure to see thee hankering on the Harlots Lips; embracing any Sin with delight: He will not bear it, to see thee smile upon any Sin. He holds thee for a Traytor to his Crown, if thou willingly harbour his Enemy. Though thou be very diligent in God's Service, and presentest him with multitudes of Sacrifices, and many Prayers, he will be pleased with nothing, but hide his Face, and stop his Ears, whilst thou keepest thine iniquities in thine hands, *Isa. i. 16, 17, 18*. God will not amicably treat with them that will not put away the evil of their doings. O look into thine Hands, look into thy Heart, look into thy House! into thy Shop! thy Trade! thy Calling! see if there be not some way of wickedness, that thou art found in. Thou canst not have peace with God, nor he pleasure in thee, till this be removed; put off therefore the Old Man with his deeds.

2. *Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, Rom. 13.*

First, *The red Robe of his Righteousness for Justification*. The Lord will never give thee a good look, nor a good word, but in Christ: He is a revenging, a consuming Fire out of Christ, but get on his Robes and he will be well pleased. *Enoch* had this Testimony, that he pleased God: But Christ had much more,

more, that God was well pleased with Sinners, in and for him. Away with these Rags, and with these Fig-leaves. How can the righteous Soul of God but abhor you, whilst in the menstruous cloaths of your own Righteousness? Dare not to come to God but with Christ in your Arms: Approach him not but in the Garments of your elder Brother, lest you carry away the Curse. *Joshua's* filthy Garments must be put off, and Christ's Rayment put on; or else there is no standing before the bright and burning eyes of Infinite Holiness. Put on the Lord Jesus in believing; that is, accept of him in all his Offices, with all his Inconveniences, and deliver up thy self to him. And this will intitle thee to his Merits, and Righteousness. Without this nothing will avail. If thy Head were Waters and thine Eyes a Fountain of Tears, if thou shouldst wear thy Tongue to the Roots with praying, if thou shouldst weep an Ocean, and wash thy self in thine own Brine; all could not get out one spot: Nothing can be accepted while thou art out of Christ: And therefore in the first place apply thy self to him. God will accept of no gift but of his Altar.

2dly, *The white Robe of his Grace of Sanctification.* Rev. 5. 11. Thou that art in the *Flesh*, that is, unrenewed, un sanctified, *canst not please God*, Rom. 8. 8. never think to *make* up the matter by a little mending and reforming particular Acts: Man, thy heart must be renewed, thy state must be clean altered, or God cannot be pleased, Mat. 7. 16, 17, 18. The Tree must be made good, the Fountain must be healed, or else the stream will be salt and the fruit sowre. Let Christ be once formed in thee, that is, his image in his Grace: Likeness is the ground of Love: Similitude and suitableness of Nature is the load-stone of Affection. God cannot but love his own likeness. Wouldst thou have his Favour? Wouldst thou be his delight? Then conform to his Pleasure, study to be like him, purifie thy self as he is pure. The Righteous

teous Lord loveth Righteousness : He desireth truth in the inward parts, and takes infinite complacency in the graces of his People. These are the Spikenard and Saffron, the Spices, the Beds of Lillies : The sweet Ointments that Christ is so taken up with : These are the Cinnamon and the Trees of Frankincense ; the Calamus and Camphire, the Myrrh and the Alloes : The Chains of the Neck, and the precious Pearls that he is so ravished withal, and doth so superlatively commend, *Can. 4. 9.* This is the Rayment of Needle-work and Gold of *Ophir*, wherein the Queen is presented to Her Royal Husband, *Psal. 45. 9, 13.* Therefore as the Elect of God, holy and beloved, *Col. 5. 12, 13.* Put ye on *bowels of mercy, kindness ;* put off all these, *anger, wrath, malice, filthy communication, and put on the new Man, Col. 3. 9, 10.* Particularly, let me commend to you some special Graces which God doth manifest himself to be wonderfully pleased withal. As ever you would please God, get on these :

I. Be cloathed with humility, *1 Pet. 5. 5.* This is a Garment which must be put on, or else you cannot be accepted or saved, *Mat. 18. 3.* Here is the dress that you must come to God in. He must be *serv'd in humility of mind,* *Acts 20. 14.* You must humble your selves to walk with him, *Mic. 6. 8.* Humility is a plain, but yet a comely Garment. This Grace doth eminently honour God ; and therefore God doth put a peculiar honour upon, and manifest a most special delight in this. Of all the Men in the World, this is the Man that God will look unto ; even he that is poor and of a contrite Spirit, that trembleth at his Word, *Isa. 66. 2.* Though he be the high and lofty One, who inhabiteth Eternity, whose Name is Holy : From whence the trembling Soul is ready to conclude, that surely such a fearful Majesty cannot but despise him : Such sin-hating purity cannot but abhor him : Yet he will lay (*Isa. 57. 15.*) aside his Majesty, and bear with Mans impurity, and condescend to most familiar

familiar and constant communion and co-habitation with his poor dust, when contrite at his feet, and prostrate in humility. If thou wouldst be accepted of God, come as *Benhadads* Servant to the King of *Israel*, with a Rope about thy Neck, and Athes on thy Head, *1 Kings* 20. 32. think meanly of thy self, and God will honour thee, *1 Sam.* 2. 30. Put thy self in the lowest rooms, and God will set thee higher. Be little in thine own Eyes, and thou shalt be high in his. A proud Heart and a proud Look is with God the first-born of abomination : As ever thou wouldst have God well-pleased with thee, be thoroughly displeased with thy self : If thou dost thoroughly loath thy self, God doth love thee. If thou abhorrest thy self, God delighteth in thee. Be angry with thy self, and the Almighty will turn away his anger from thee : Condemn thy self, and God will acquit thee. In no wise extenuate thy sins nor justify thy self. Think the worse of thy self, and be willing, that others should think meanly of thee, and heartily love them that slight thee. This is the frame in which God is well-pleased : Pass sentence on thy self, and God will absolve thee : Set thy self at his-footstool, and he will lift thee up into the Throne.

II. *Labour for sincerity.* This is not a distinct Grace from the rest, yet for Doctrines sake I speak to it distinctly. *Uprightness* is the great thing that God looks after, and covenants for, *Gen.* 17. 1. It renders all our Persons and Performances acceptable before God, *Prov.* 15. 8. Such as are upright in the way are God's delight, *Prov.* 11. 20. To these are all the promises of Peace, Salvation, Pardon, Preservation, Blessedness, *Psal.* 87. 10. In a Word, there is *no good thing* God will with-hold from them that walk uprightly, *Prov.* 28. 10. This was *Noah's* praise, *that he was upright in his generation.* This was that which set off *Job* at such a rate, that God doth so extol him for, and as it were, make his boast of him ; the singular sincerity and integrity of his Heart. Study to be upright ; see that
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the main bent of your hearts be to please God, and honour him: That God's interest be uppermost with you: That he hath the chief share in you, and the Eye of the Soul be principally to him: for in this sincerity doth consist, as to your main State. Let your great care be of your hearts; here is a Christians great work. The Lord seeth not as Man seeth, for Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh to the heart; see therefore that thou look to it. Let thine Eye be chiefly there where God's Eye is: He looketh not so much what thou dost, as with what a Heart: Go then, and do likewise, yet be not satisfied in this, that you are upright as to your States, but labour to approve your selves in uprightness to God in your particular Actions. Do common, as well as spiritual Actions with holy ends. Much of our lives are lost for want of this. So much as is done for God, of his strange Grace, he accounts himself our debtor. But what is done for no higher end than self, is lost from our account.

III. *Put on a spirit of zeal and activity.* How wonderfully is God pleased with *Phineas* zeal, *Numb.* 25. 11, 12, 13. What a great approbation doth he manifest of him? What an attestation doth he give to him? He is so greatly pleased with his zealous appearance for him, that he turns away his displeasure from the whole Congregation of *Israel*, and overlooks their crimson provocations against him. On the contrary, there is nothing that God is more displeased with, than a remissness, and lifelessness, and indifference in Religion. The luke-warm Water is not a greater offence to the Stomach, than the luke-warm Professor is to God: And therefore he will spue such a one out of his Mouth, *Rev.* 3. 16. Christians, where is your zeal for the Lord of *Hosts*? Christ's redeemed must be zealous of good Works, *Tit.* 2. 14. not sloathful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, *Acts* 18. 25. *Rom.* 12. 11. *Acts* 26. 6, 7. instantly Night and Day for the hope of the promise? Do not only that which is right in the sight of the Lord, but

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do it with all your Heart: The Lord loveth a willing Servant: Bestir your selves for the Lord. Be ye followers of Christ, who went up and down, doing good. Every Christian should be a common blessing, a publick good. This is to be the Children of your Father which is in Heaven, who is good unto all, and his tender Mercies are over all his Works: And be sure the Father doth best love that Child that is most like him. A private narrow Spirit is a low and a base Spirit, unworthy of a Christian. A Catholick communicative Spirit, full of great desires, and great designs; A large Heart set upon doing good, whose fire, though ever hottest within, will be breaking forth of his Breast, and provoking others; Whose love will *not be confined to a party*, but gladly and thankfully owneth Christ wherever he sees him: This *Catholick Spirit*, I say, is the *glory of Religion*, the *Churches blessing*, and *God's delight*.

IV. *Live by Faith*, Heb. 10. 38, This is a precious grace in God's account, 2 Pet. 1. 1. 1 Pet. 1. 7. It giveth glory to God, and therefore God taketh no small pleasure in it. By Faith *Enoch* obtained that Testimony, that he pleased God, Rom. 4. 20. Heb. 11. 5. 2 Cor. 4. 18. Heb. 11. 39. Mat. 8. 10. If you would so walk as to please God, you must walk by Faith. Christians must look to the things unseen; they must not live at the common rate. Christ must be their Life and Breath, their Prayers and their Promises, their daily Bread. By Faith did the Elders obtain that good Report; 'twas Faith that Christ was so greatly taken with in the Centurion, which made him to commend him for a *None-such*. This was that which won such a singular praise and approbation from our Saviour to the Woman of *Canaan*; even her victorious Faith, Mat. 15. 28. Thou hast taken away my Heart, my Sister, my Spouse, thou hast taken away my Heart with one of thine Eyes, Cant. 4. 9. that is, with thy Faith. Live in the power of Faith, and thou wilt please him to the Heart, give Glory to him by believing.

ing. Let the life thou now livest in the Flesh be by Faith of the Son of God : Faith, as one well says, is the navel of Morality.

Live by Faith in *Prosperity* ; though thou hast the World about thee, let it not be above thee : Keep it at thy Feet ; use it as thy Servant : Be much in the views of Glory, and contemplation of Eternity : Buy as though thou possessedst not, rejoice as tho' thou rejoicedst not, love as though thou lovedst not, use this World as not abusing it : It is but a fashion, not a substance, and that which it is passes away, 1 *Cor.* 7. 30, 31. Use it therefore with mortified Affections, and prove the sincerity of your Faith by the victory over your inordinate content and delight in, and desires after, and cares for the things of this World, 1 *John* 5. 4.

Live by Faith in *adversity*. Weep as though you wept not, enduring the Cross, and despising the Shame, as looking unto Jesus, *Heb.* 12. 2. *Heb.* 11. 26. accounting Christ's Reproaches your Riches, his Shame your Glory, *Acts* 5. 41. Compare these light Afflictions with the weight of Glory, 2 *Cor.* 4. 17. *Rom.* 8. 18. Ply your Hearts with the Promises. Count if you can, the riches that are laid up in them. Roll your selves upon the Lord, *Psal.* 37. 5. and know that your Heavenly Father hath no greater delight, than to see his Children trust him with confidence, when all visible helps are out of sight, and he seems to be their Enemy, *Job* 13. 15.

V. Put on the Ornament of a meek and quiet spirit ; this is, in the sight of God, of great price, 1 *Pet.* 3. 4. Study to be like your Father, slow to anger, ready to forgive, *Psal.* 103. 8. forgetting injuries, loving Enemies, requiting ill-will with Kindness, ill words with Courtesies, neglects with Benefits : And if any wrong you, do him a kindness the sooner ; so shall you bear his likeness, and be his delight. And know ye that are of unmortified Passions, and unbridled Tongues, God hath an especial hatred and displeasure

against a froward heart, and a froward tongue, *Prov.* 3. 32. 11. 20. Oh seek meekness. How can the Holy Dove rest in a wrathful Heart. Christ is a Lamb of meekness: How can he take pleasure in an unquiet, contentious spirit? Verily with the froward he will shew himself froward, *Psal.* 18. 26. If you will not forgive others, he will not forgive you. Art thou hard to be pleased, a froward Wife, a froward Master, a cross and wilful Servant? Surely God will not be pleased with thee: He will mete to you as you measure to others, *Mat.* 16. 24.

VI. *Get a spirit of self denial.* God is then pleased best when self is displeased most. When we can be content to be empty, content to be abated, that God might be honoured, and with the Holy Baptist, are willing to be eclipsed by Christ; willing to decrease, that he may increase; counting our selves no losers whilst his interest is a gainer, *John*, 3. 29, 30. rejoicing that we are made low for Christs advancement: This is well pleasing unto God: How greatly was he pleased with *Solomon's* self denying choice, and gives him his asking, throwing in riches, and honour into the bargain? *1 Kings* 3. 10, 11, 12. Strange was *Abraham's* selfdenial. What! to sacrifice with his own hand, the whole hope of his Family! the Heir of Promise! the Child of his Years! a Son! an only Son! when his life was bound up in the lads life! Was ever mortal: thus put to it? But *Abraham* shall not be a loser. God gives him a testimony from Heaven: Blesses him, Blesses his Seed; Blesses all Nations in him, *Gen*, 22 15, 16, 17, 18. Wonderful was *Moses his self-denial*, but more wonderful was his acceptation and reward *Heb.* 11. 24. None like *Moses*, *Deut.* 34. 10. God preferred him in another manner than *Pharaoh* could. He must speak with him face to face, as a man with his friend; His word shall be as it were a Law with God. Speak for whom he will they shall be spared, though they seem'd to be devoted to destruction. But speak against him who durst, he shall be sure to bear his iniquity, *Num.* 12. 8. For-

get self: Renounce thine own wisdom, thine own worthiness, thine own will: Bite in thy passions: Curb thine appetite: Bridle thy tongue. This do, and thou shalt be greatly accepted, and shalt find that God's favour will infinitely reward thee, for all the murmuring oppositions and discontents of thy flesh, which will be ready to be impatient to have the reins held so hard.

VII. *Maintain a spirit of resolution and constancy in the ways of God,* Heb. 10. 38. This was the renown of the three Worthies, *Dan. 3.* They feared not the fierceness of *Nebuchadnezzars* rage, nor the fire of the furnace: All the world could not make them bow: And how gloriously did God own them, and miraculously evidence his pleasure in them: Stand your ground: Resolve to live and die by substantial godliness: Cleave to the Lord with full purpose of heart: Let no difficulties make you change your Station: Then shall you be an honour and a pleasure to the God that made you.

Well then, would you know what frame of heart is pleasing to God? why this *humble, sincere, zealous, active frame, this believing, meek, self-denying, resolved frame*; this is the frame that is well pleasing in the sight of God.

Secondly, *As to your performances,* more briefly, that those may please God, you must heedfully look to these five things.

1. *That they be done by the right Rule*; which is Gods Word. You must not follow the imaginations of your own hearts, *Num. 15. 39.* You must not do that which is right in your own eyes. In all sacred actions you must have Gods command to warrant you. You may not offer to God of that, of which you are not able to say, *Thou requirest these things at our hands,* *Iia. 1. 12.* In all civil actions you must have Gods allowance. Be sure he will never accept that which his Word condemns under pain of Gods displeasure, dare not to set your hands to what the Word forbids.

That they be done to the right end ; which is, God's Glory: How damnably did the Pharisees err? How miserably did Jeshu miscarry? And both in acts for the matter commanded, for want of aiming at this end.

3. *That they proceed from right Principles* (1.) *Faith* without which, it is impossible to please God, *Heb. 11. 6.* Prayer will not avail except it be the prayer of Faith, We believe, and therefore we speak. (2.) *Love.* If we should give our goods to the poor, and bodies to the fire, and not from Love, it would profit us nothing : where the slavish fear of Hell only, or of the lashes of Conscience, or the love of mans praise, carries men to duties ; where any other carnal principle is predominant in the act, it cannot please God. (3.) *Fear.* We cannot serve God acceptably, without reverence and godly fear (no slavish fear.) The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in them that hope in his mercy. Observe the happy mixture, where these two are conjoyned, that is, a true filial fear. Saith David, *I will come to thy House in the multitude of thy mercy; Behold his faith) and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy Temple* (there is his fear with faith.) *Faith without Fear* were bold presumption: *Fear without Faith* is sinful despair ; joyn them together, and God's well pleased.

4. *That they be done in right manner.* Preparedly, not rashly and inconsiderately in the presence of so dreadful a Majesty : Prudently, for lawful Acts may be spoiled, and be done unlawfully, without consideration had to the offence that may (in some cases) attend them ; yea Holy Duties as well as Common Actions may be turned into sins, by being ill timed, and for want of a due attending the present Circumstances : *Holily*, not rashly uttering any thing with our mouths before God, but behaving our selves as in his sight *Heartily*, not feignedly with our lips going, when our minds are gadding.

5. *That they be directed thro' the right means ; that is, Jeshu Christ the only way to the Father.* Bring all thy Sacrifices to the High Priest, offer all upon this Altar, else all is lost : not that it is enough to say (*Through our Lord Jeshu*

Jesus Christ, Amen) at the end; but in every duty you must come with lively dependance on him for righteousness and strength, for assistance and acceptance. Remember to do *all in the name of the Lord Jesus*, to come leaning upon his hand, without this all your services will be rejected at last.

CHAP. II.

A third Case of Conscience, grounded upon the words of our Saviour,

John 8. 29. *For I do always those things that please him*

Q. I. *IS any man able in this life to come up to the Example of Christ in this, To do always those things that please God?*

Ans. In regard there is none that doth good and sinneth not, and God is not, nor can be pleased with sin, no not in his own people, but most of all hates it in them; it cannot be that any man in this life should fully come up to Christs Example in this yet may we come. So far on towards it as that not only in our immediate addresses to God, but in the general course of our lives, we may come to *please God*, Thus, *Enoch and Noah walked with God*, (i. e.) in their general course they walked so as to *please God*, and approve themselves in his sight. Thus the meanest of Actions, if done by us as unto the Lord, as the Servants of Christ, have a promise of acceptance and reward, *Col. 3. 22, 23, 24.*

Q. II. *How may we come in our measure to be followers of Christ in this, to do always those things that please God.*

Ans. In order to this, there is something necessary, with reference, 1. To our Persons, 2. To our Principles. 3. To our Practices. With reference to our Persons: And here it is necessary, That there be an alteration of our natures

by renewing grace, for they that are in the flesh cannot please God, Rom. 8. 8.

These *wild Vines* must needs bring forth *sowr grapes*, Isa. 5. 4. The fruit that they bear (how specious and fair soever to the eye) is *evil fruit*, Mat. 7. 17. where there is not a *good treasure* of grace in the Heart, a man cannot in his actions bring forth good things, Mat. 12. 36.

Many enlightned sinners think by reading, and praying, and forsaking some gross and foul sins to pacifie God, and set all right. Mistaken souls, let me undeceive you: you begin at the wrong end, your first and greatest care must be, to get *your hearts and natures changed and renewed by the power of converting grace*: You labour in vain at the streams, while the fountain of corruption in the heart remains in its strength. You must not think it is with you, as it is with a ruinous house, where the mending of here and there a little will make up all again; but the old building must be quite taken down, and the foundation stone laid anew in a sound repentance from dead works. And through conversion unto God. Till this be done you must know that God hath *no pleasure in you*, neither, will accept an offering at your hand, Mal. 1. 10. As he doth from those that are his friends.

2. That there be the Acceptation of your persons through faith in Christ Jesus: For in him alone it is that God will be well pleased, Mat. 3. last. So that without faith interesting us in him, it is impossible to please God, Heb. 11. 6.

For the better understanding both these Particulars know that there are two Attributes of God to which you must bear a conformity, or else you cannot please him.

1. *The Holiness* of God: For he is not a God that hath pleasure in iniquity; he heareth not sinners: The foolish shall not stand in his sight: He hateth all the workers of iniquity, Psal. 5. 4, 5. Job 9. 31. God can

no more take pleasure in the unsanctified, than we in swine or serpents.

2. *The Justice of God*; For he will by no means clear the guilty, *Exod.* 34. 7. Could we have inherent holiness in us, in our unpardon'd state, yet Justice could not but be infinitely offended while guilt lieth unre-moved; as you may see in Christ. For though he were *perfectly holy*, yet being under the guilt of our sins imputed to him, the severity of Gods justice broke out against him.

Now man being naturally an offence, both to the holiness and justice of God, there must of necessity pass upon him in order to his pleasing God, this twofold change.

1. *The real change of Sanctification*, I call this a real change, because by this there is a real change, infusing of new qualities and dispositions, making him of proud humble, of carnal spiritual, and heavenly, &c.

2. *The relative change of Justification*. I call this a relative change, because this is not a change in a mans nature, but in his condition, making him to stand in a new relation to the Law, with reference to which he was before guilty and condemned; but now the Law pronounces the same man clear and acquitted, and this is not for any righteousness infused into him, but for the Satisfaction and payment of another laid down for him; satisfaction there must be, and a righteousness must be tendred, or else God cannot be at peace. We have *nothing to pay*, *Luk.* 7. 49. Oh sinner! Away to Christ for it; Hide thee in the Clifts of that Rock; Run to the Fountain opened for sin and uncleanness. Appear not before God but in the Robes of Christs Righteousness. He sends you to Jesus as he did them to *Job*, Chap. 42. the last, *Go to my servant Job, he shall pray for you, him will I accept*: Get out of your selves flie to Christ, labour to be found in him; else all your endeavours in rising and washing your selves will be to no effect.

2, *With reference to our Principles.* And here it is necessary

cessary that some *corrupt principles be unlearn'd*, and some *holy principles be received* and retained.

Some *corrupt Principles must be unlearn'd*. As 1. That *it is enough if we serve God on the Lords day, and we may serve our selves all the rest of the Week*, Though God hath reserved one day in seven wholly for his immediate service, which is therefore in a peculiar sence called the *Lords Day*, yet we must know that every day is his, and that He hath not allowed us one hour nor inch of time, but only for his service. Indeed he hath service of *more sorts than one*: But we must know that the business of our ordinary affairs, if rightly done is a *serving of the Lord Christ*, Col. 3. 24. God is as truly served by you in the *working days labour* as the *Sabbath days rest*, if you do it in a right manner and to holy ends.

There are a generation whose Religion is but a *Sundays Religion*, which they put on and off with their *Sundays Cloaths*, and then they think God is fairly served for the week: although God knows that little they do then, is but poorly done neither. Never think God will accept it at thy hands. when thou livest six days to the world and thy self, for *one* that thou spendest for him. This shews thee to be under the unmortified power of self-love, and not to be the Lords, for none of his liveth to himself, Rom. 14. 7. You must remember that you are but to learn upon the Sabbath, how to serve God all the week, and not think when the Lords day is ended his work is done.

2. That if God be served morning and evening, it is enough, though we serve our selves the rest of the day; God must be served every day, and all the day Prov. 23. 17. You must be serving him, not only in your Feasts, but at your Meals; not only on your Knees, but in your Callings.

Some think that if they keep up *religious duties*, they may do what they list at other times; that if they be intemperate, lascivious, unrighteous, it is but to make even again with God at night, and all will be well.

Like

Like the Whore in the *Proverbs*, that having made her offering, was presently ready for new wickedness *Prov. 7. 14.* as if she had paid off the old score, and might now boldly run upon a new. These are not the Children of God, but of *Belial*.

Others think, that though they may not serve the Devil at any time, yet giving God his dues morning and evening, they may serve themselves the rest of the time. But in vain do they lay claim to God, who live more to themselves than they do to him. This will be found horrible sacrilege to put off God but with the tenth. God is to be eyed, and served in all that you do; and this is that I drive at, that we may not divide our selves between God and the world; between his service and our own ends, and so put him off with a partial service; but that we may do all in obedience to him, and we may be entirely the Lords. That he in *all things may be glorified by us*, and we may not lose our reward.

2. Some holy Principles must be received and retained. As.

Pr. 1. *That the pleasing of God is our only business, and our highest blessedness.* First our only business: what is it that we call or count our business?

1. That is a mans Business which his Livelihood and and Subsistence depends upon. The *Lawyer* counts his Law his Business, and the *Tradesman* counts his Trade his Business; because upon this their Livelihood and Subsistence depends. Brethren, our whole depends upon the *pleasing of God*: Do this and do all: Miss in this, and you marr all: please him, and you are made for ever: If he be not pleased, you are undone for ever. How careful is the selfish Courtier to please his Prince? How will he crouch and flatter? and if he can but divine what will gratifie and please him, he thinks himself happy: And why? But because all his dependance is upon his Princes favour: Much more do we depend upon the favour of God. Blessed is the man *whom he chooseth*, *Psal. 65. 4.* In his favour is life, *Psal. 30. 5.* But woe

woe to them that have God against them, these are perfectly miserable: *Reprobate silver shall men call them because the Lord hath rejected them*, Jer. 6. 30. If the Lord do but say to a man as he did to *Moses*, *Thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name*. Happy is that man. But if he thus say, *I have no pleasure in thee*: you may cover the face of that man, as they did *Haman's* and carry him away: miserable must his end be if he so continue.

2. *That is a mans business which he hath his Stock and Talents for.* If a man be intrusted as a Steward or a Factor, his Business is to buy in the Commodities that are useful. Beloved, all our Times, Parts, interests, Food, Raiment, and whatever Mercies, Spiritual or Temporal, are the Stock wherewith God hath intrusted us, and all for his own use and service. And is it not a sad and fearful case, that God should have so great a Stock going, as lies in the hands of all the Sons, of Men, and yet have, (if I may so speak) so little profit of it? I mean so little glory by it that he should sow so much and reap so little; strew so much and gather so little: Is it not sad that men should have so much in vain? Hast thou health or wealth, and dost not use it for God it is all in vain; hast thou understanding, and yet improve it but for contriving thine own affairs, and worldly designs? Thy reason and understanding are become vain. Oh how wilt thou answer it, that thou hast had so great a stock in thine hands, and made so little improvement of it? It had been good for some men if they had never had a foot of Land, or an hours ease, if they never had the understanding of men, because they have not used their Talents for God, and for the ends for which they were put into their hands.

3. *That is a mans Business which his Capacities do call for:* It is a mans Business, if in the Capacity of a Judge, to do Justice; or of a Servant, to do his Masters will. Brethren, all your Capacities do evidence it to be your Business to please God: you are his Friends

Friends, you are his Servants, and therefore must *please him well in all things*, Tit. 2. 9. His Children, and therefore must set your selves to *honour him* Mal. 1. 6. His Spouse, and therefore it is your Business to *please your Husband*, 1 Cor. 7. 34.

4. *That is a mans Business which he hath his maintenance for.* If a man be maintained in the place of a School-Master, it is his Business to teach, if of a Soldier it is his Business to fight. Beloved, do you not know at whose finding you are? And do you think God keeps so many Servants to be idle, or to mind their own designs and pleasures? God hath cut you out every one his work, every man his hands full: So much work is to be done within door and so much without door: So much towards God, toward your Neighbour, towards your own selves that you have no time to be idle in. And you shall dearly reckon for it, if you will eat his bread and will not do his Work. And as pleasing God is our chiefest Business.

Secondly, So it is all our *highest Blessedness*: For mans happiness lies in Gods favour, Psal. 4. 6. Our Happiness is in attaining the end of our Being, and therefore the great Query amongst the Philosophers still was, *What the end or the happiness of man?* Now the true end of our Being is that we may *please God*; for *his pleasure we are and were Created*, Rev. 4. 11. And for this end also we were *new created*, that we should yield our selves unto God, Rom. 6. 13. and being *built up a spiritual house*, should offer up to him *spiritual Sacrifice acceptable through Christ*, 1 Pet. 2. 5. This is the end of our *Redemption*, that we should serve not *our selves*, but *him in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives*, Luke. 1. 75. And that we should not henceforth live to *our selves* but to *him that died for us*, 2 Cor. 5. 15. 'Tis the end likewise of our *Justification*, that our Consciences being purged, we should *acceptably serve* the living God. In a word, 'tis the end of our *glorification*, that being translated into Heaven, we should perfectly *please God*, and serve him night and day in his Temple, Rev. 17. 15.

7. 15. and 22. 3. So that the pleasing of God, is the whole end or whole happiness of man, *Eccles. 12. 13.* And this will be clear, because we do then promote our selves most when we please God best. For by this you shall have this two-fold advantage.

First, *You shall be the favourite of God.* O glorious promotion! *Haman* thought himself no little man when he was on *Abashuerus* right hand, and yet he was at length but preferred to the Gallows. *Ester 5. 11.* and 7. 10. But what shall be done to the man whom God delights to honour? O blessed is that man! wo to him that toucheth him: *It had been better for him that a milstone had been hanged about his neck & he drowned in the midst of the Sea,* than that he should offend such a one, *Luke 17. 2.* God is infinitely chary of his favourites The Apple of his eye is touched when they are injured, *Zechariah 2, 8* *Whosoever toucheth them shall not be innocent,* *Psal. 107. 15.* God hath a blessing for those that shew them a kindness, *Gen 12. 3.* He will render vengeance upon the ungodly for every hard speech they utter against them, *Jude 5. 15.*

O man, doth not thy soul say, *Happy is the people that is in such a case?* Will not thy condition be most Blessed, when God shall be thus infinitely tender of thee to take all the kindnesses done to thee, as done to himself? *Mat. 25. 45.* And all the injuries done to thee, as affronts to himself? *Acts 9. 4.* This is the happy Case of his Favourites,

Secondly, *Every thing you do shall be found upon your account with God.* Brethren, are you Believers, or are you not? Do you believe the Immortality of the Soul, and the life to come, or do you not? the ways of the most do declare them to be real Infidels, tho' professed Christians. If you think there be an eternal State to come, will it not be your highest wisdom to be providing for it, and laying up what possibly you can, that you may inherit it in the other world? Will not every wise man that knows he is shortly to be removed into another Country, be careful to transport all that

he

he can, that he may enjoy it at his coming? Beloved if you do believe indeed that you must be for ever in another world, will it not be your best course to be doing that, the fruit whereof you shall enjoy for ever? Were not he a mad man that having but a very short term upon a Living, should yet go to building and planting there, when he had Land of Inheritance to build upon? Infinite is the mischief that comes of *self-seeking* and *self-pleasing*. You are eternal losers by it: God will say, *You have your reward*, Mat. 6. 5. Something you may have in hand, but the *eternal reward* is lost. Brethren, I am ambitious for you that what you do, you *should* do for ever, that all you do should meet you in the other world, and that there you should reap everlasting fruit of what you are doing now. A wise Builder will build for ever, and not only that *which* shall last for a day, or for a year. O that you would be wise Builders! Do all for God, and you shall *have* eternal advantage. Learn but this Lesson, *To set your selves in all things to please God, & you will be promoting and advancing your selves in all that ever you do*, always laying up a treasure in Heaven, still adding to the heap. And O what riches will you come to, *when* by every day, and every hour, and every action you are gainers? For God will not let the least thing that is done for him, no not a Cup of cold Water, go without an everlasting reward, *Mat 10. 42.* nor your labour be in vain, *1 Cor. 15. 58.*

Pr. 3. *That when you have done all, if God be not pleased you have done nothing.* Settle it upon your hearts, that all is in vain that is not done for God: when you do not please God, you do not profit your selves. When men offer never so richly, and freely, if not in such a manner as is pleasing to God, all is but a vain oblation, *Isa. 1. 13.* If men will do more than ever God required and be zealous in things that God hath not commanded 'tis but in *vain that they worship him*, *Mat 15. 9.* Beloved, so much time as you have lived to your selves, you have lived in vain; because it was quite besides
your

your end. O it is a heart-cutting consideration to a tender Christian to think of this ; that when his life is so short, and time so little in all, yet he must be fain to cut off so much ! why man, so many hours must thou cut off from thy days, and so many years from thy life, as thou hast lived not to God but to thy self ; They are all lost as to the ends of life and time. If on Repentance thou be forgiven, thou art not *Re-warded* for them.

Beloved, You must count that you have lived no longer than you have lived unto God, *Phil. 1 21. To me to live is Christ* I should account I did not live if I did not live to him : 'Tis the only employment of my life to serve him. I should not tell what to do with my life, unless it were to spend it for him.

Christian, Thus thou must reckon : so much time as I have lived to Christ, so much have I lived, and so much as I have lived to my self, so much I have lost. 'Tis not the *Man*, but the *Beast* that lives while we live below our reason, which distinguishes the *Humane* life from that of *Brutes*. Now while we live not to God we live utterly below our reason it self, which is sufficiently discovered in that God is the Author and end of Man. Doth not *Reason* dictate that God should have the glory of his own work, and the Vessel should be to the Potters use ? Doth any plant a Vineyard, or keep a Flock, and not expect the Fruit or Milk ? *1 Cor. 9. 7.* God hath made thee, O man, *for himself*, *Prov. 16. 4.* And hast thou the face of a man, and dost not blush at this to think that God should make and maintain thee in vain ? If thou hast one grain of ingenuity, thou wilt abhor the thought of this, that thou shouldst be in vain, Why, so much as thou art for thy self thou art for nothing. It may be thou livest a very busie life : But if thou actest not for God, thou art all this while but busily doing nothing. Thou mayst sit down in the Evening, and say, I have been all this day doing nothing. Thou wilt find a blank in Gods Book for that

that day, nothing upon thine account : On this sad record, such a day spent and nothing done. God hath his Day Book and takes notice of all your carriages, how you rise, and how you go forth to your labours; how you speak, how you eat, and whether you eye him and his glory, in all, or look no higher than your selves, *Luke 5. 5. We have been toiling all night and caught nothing.* May not this be the sad complaint of many man? I have been toiling all my life, and yet I have done nothing, because what I did was not done unto the Lord. How would you take it of your servants, if coming home in the Evening, you should find every one of them minding their own business and pleasure, and your work left undone? Is it not sad, Sirs that so many hours and days should pass over us, and we no nearer our end than ever we were before? Your little Children are busie from morning to night and yet all the while have been doing nothing : And so are you when you are but seeking your carnal selves, and not serving and pleasing God in what you undertake.

Pr. 4, *That the favour of all the world can nothing feed you, if God be not pleased with you and by you.* If there were any that could save you from his wrath, you needed not be so solicitous to please him : But if he be not pleased we are all undone. *Thou, even thou art to be feared, and who shall stand when once thou art angry?* *Psal. 76. 7. Isa. 43. 13.* When men have slight thoughts of God's anger, and the fear and dread of Him is not upon their hearts, no wonder if they be not careful to please him. You must be convinced, that the displeasure of God is the most formidable thing in the world, or else you will never learn this great Lesson. Beloved, if you should please men and all the world should be on your side, what would this avail, while God is your Enemy? If all men should bless you, and speak well of you, what would this profit, when God should rise up in judgment against you, and condemn you? It is not at mans Bar, but Gods, that you must stand : It is not at mens Votes

that you must be cast or quitted. It will not go by most Voices, but God himself is the Judge, *Psal. 75. 7.* In his Breast it is not whether you shall live or die: If a man were upon a Tryal for his life, what would it avail him that all his fellow prisoners, and the whole croud about him, were for him, when the whole Bench and Jury were against him? If your Lives and Estates were in question, to whom would you go to make your Friend? The Judge or the People! Sirs, be convinced, that if God be against you, 'tis as bad, as if God and all the world were against you, for all signifies nothing without him. Oh! *whatever* you do, study to get in, and keep in with him. I tell you, the time is coming, when the breath of Men will signifie nothing. When their Commendation will do you no good. O man! though all the World should give thee their hands, and subscribe thy Certificate, it would signifie nothing in God's account, or his Court. Many build their Hopes for Heaven upon the good opinion that others have of them: But I tell thee, man, though thou couldst carry Letters of commendation with thee, when thou diest, and all the Ministers of the Gospel should give thee their *Bene diceffit*, all would be no more than a blank paper, and he would not save thee a jot the sooner, if he should find thee to have been but a secret Hypocrite, a rotten-hearted Professor all the while.

Pr. 5. *That God would not be pleased with you in any thing, except you make it your care to please him well in every thing. You will be one day ashamed, except you have respect to all God's Commandments, Psa. 119. 6. You have not a Good Conscience, except it be your care in all things to live honestly, Heb. 13. 18. If Naaman must be excused in one thing, to bow in the house of Rimmon, that he might not displease his Master, this is enough to spoil every thing, 2. King. 5. 18. Some will needs keep God's good Will and the Worlds too, and so will give both their turns; they will serve God at home and conform to the World abroad; and it shall be a great thing indeed that they will not swallow, rather*

ther then lose the good will of men, especially great men. These men have two Faces, and two Tongues: the one for the good, and the other for the bad company: that they come into. Some held two *First Principles* the one the common fountain of all good (which is God,) and the other the cause of all evil, and they worshipped both: The *good Principle for love*, and the *evil for fear*. Just such a Religion are many among us now of. But let them know whoever they are that while they grasp all, they lose all: For God will never own Time-servers, nor Men pleasers for the Servants of Christ, *Ephes. 6. 6. Gal. 1. 10.*

3. *With reference to your practices.* And here as ever you desire to come up to this blessed life of *doing always those things that please God*, you must carefully follow these six Rules.

Rule I. *Look round about you to the whole latitude and compass of your duty.* Great is the Latitude of Christianity. *The Commandment is exceeding broad, Psal 110. 96.* And many professors do scarce look more than one way: But while they intently mind one thing they neglect another. It may be while they are taken up with the care of Religious duties, they forget Relative duties: Or they are careful of Personal duties, but very remiss in the duties that they owe to the souls of their families. Or they complain and mourn over their own Sins, but lay not to heart *others* Sins: It may be they are more punctual in their more immediate duties towards God, but are very negligent in their duties towards Men; or they will spend much time for their Souls, but do little lay to heart the Case of the Church, and the misery of perishing Souls, that are round about them. Possibly they keep the *Sabbath* strictly, and pray, and hear, and fear an Oath, but in the mean time make little Conscience of breaking their Promises, passing hasty and uncharitable censures, spending time vainly, being unprofitable in their discourse, close-handed to godly uses; suffering sin to go unreprieved; letting out their passions at every petty

cross, Many will mind their duty to them that are Within, and in the mean time are very short in their duties to them that are Without. This is too common a Case. Where is the Christian almost that seriously bethinks himself, What might I do to win souls? It may be you will go oft into the company of the Godly, where you may be edified, but when do you go to your poor Neighbours, whom you see to live in a Sinful state, and tell them of their Danger, and labour to gain them to Christ? Yea, so much is this great Duty neglected and out of fashion, that I am afraid many question, whether it be a duty or no. As if you might let sin lie upon the soul of your Brother and yet be innocent, *Lev. 19. 17.* If it were but his Ox or Ass that lay ready to perish, you would make no question but it were your duty to help him out of the Ditch: And do you think in earnest that you owe more to these, than you do to his soul? Is it to Ministers only, or to all Believers that Scripture belongs? *Prov. 11. 30. The Fruit of the righteous is a Tree of Life, and he that winneth Souls is wise.* Surely the lives of too many Christians do speak the same language that Cain spake with his mouth; *Am I my brothers keeper?* *Gen. 4. 9.* 'Tis true, God will have you keep every one within the bounds of your proper stations, but so as to take occasions, yea, to seek occasions, as you are able, to be doing good to others. Do you not know how to get within your poor neighbours? Carry an Alms with you, do him a Kindness, oblige him by your courteous and winning carriage. Then I shall look to see the Kingdom of Christ flourish gloriously, when every one, that professeth godliness, shall arise and take hold of the skirt of his neighbour. Oh see your neglects in this, do not think it enough to keep your own Vineyard: Let your Friends and Neighbours have no quiet for you, till you see them setting in good earnest to seek after Heaven. Oh if you might bring in but every one his man to Christ, what a blessed thing were

were this! I lose my self in this Argument, but I am content to do so, this duty being so miserably neglected.

Too many live, as if Religion lay all in *praying* and *hearing*, *holy conference*, and the like, forgetting that *pure Religion and undefiled is this, to visit the Fatherless and the Widdow in their afflictions*, Jam. 1. 27. The other should be so done, as that this should not be left undone. You make conscience of being just and true, and faithful; but do you not forget to win upon others by your kindness and affableness? as if it were not written in your Bibles; *Be pitiful, be courteous, having compassion one of another*, 1 Pet. 3. 8. Say not, It is not my nature; What doth grace serve for, but to correct the evils of your temper? Is not ours a Religion of self-denial? Do not the Rules of our Religion enjoin us to be followers of whatsoever is lovely, and of good report, and may render Religion amiable to the world *Phil. 4. 8.*

Rule II. *Use a wise forecast, that every duty may fall in its time and order; and every work may have its room.* It is not enough to do Gods work, but it must be done in his order. That which in it self is good and necessary, may be so ill-timed, as to become a sin. It is a duty to tell your Brother of his Sin: But to rip it up in your passion, or to be retorting upon him, when he is christianly admonishing you, is a Sin. Your *worldly* business must not shut out Religion nor Religious duties take so up, as to neglect your callings. But every duty must have its place. But for the doing all in Gods order, Take these five *Directions.*

Direct. I. *Begin at home, whether in provoking to good, or in reprovng Evil. And. 1. in provoking to good.* Why should God plead with you? *Thou that teachest another, teachest thou not thy self?* Rom. 2. 21. Be an example of thine own Rule, else the Hypocrites charge will come in against thee, Mat. 23. 4. *They bind heavy burdens, but will not touch them with one of their fingers.*

Observe God's order. *Dent 6, 6, 7. These words which I command thee, shall be in thine heart.* That must be our first Care. And then having got our Lesson well our selves, we must then teach it to others: *And thou shalt teach them diligently to thy Childeren, and tell of them when thou, &c.* At least if thou hast not already attained it, be sure to learn with the first? and when thou predest a duty intend thy self first, and speak most to thine own heart.

2. *In reproving evil;* Otherwise thou wilt be branded for an Hypocrite, *Mat 7. 5. First cast the Beam out of thine own Eye.* We may not think, as many do mistakingly, that we must not reprove another, when we are guilty of the same sin. But we must in such a case be sure to cast the first stone at our selves. Be soonest angry with thy self, and more severe to thine own sins, than any others. 'Tis strange to see the great censoriousness of Professors to others, and how tender they are of their own corruptions, and impatient of reproof, Reader, fear and avoid this Sin.

Direct. II. *Let God be first served.* Let God have the first of thy thoughts, the first of the day, the first of thy strength: How heavily is God displeased with the prophane Priests, because they will serve themselves first, with Sacrifices before him? *2 Sam. 2. 15, 16.* And it is the holy Counsel that one gives, *Hold the door of thy heart fast against the world in the morning, till thy heart hath been first in Heaven, and seasoned, and fortified from thence, against the Temptations that thou art like to meet with as soon as thou comest down below.* Indeed all must be done as God's service. But so as that his immediate service must be done first. It is the counsel of several Heathens, *That all undertakings should be begun with prayer.* Saith *Aratus, Let us begin with God.* And the very *Mahumetans* begin their Books always as men do use to do their Wills, *In the Name of God.*

Direct. III. *First cleanse the inside,* *Mat. 23. 26. Cleanse first that which is within the Cup.* Though the

are much out, that live, as if all their work did lie within door, yet remember that it lies chiefly here. Its a most preposterous course in Religion to begin first with the outside, *Jer. 4. 14. O Jerusalem, wash thine heart!* When once this is done, reformation will soon follow in the Life, but not otherwise. Many are careful, that all that appears to Men should be beautiful, but their Hearts are neglected: These carry upon them the marks of the Hypocrite, *Mat 23. 27, 28.* And what will it profit thee, O vain man, to have all kept secret from men, since God knows and detests thee? And hath appointed a day when he will rip open all thy pack, and Anatomize thy heart, before the world? *1 Cor. 4. 5, Eccles. 12. 14. Rom. 2. 16.*

Direct. IV. *Eye those duties most that are of most importance, Mat. 23. 23.* The Hypocrite is very punctual in lesser matters, but neglects the weightiest things of the Law, Judgment, and Mercy, and Faith. He is for a Religion that will cost him little: And therefore words being good cheap, he will be as forward in talk as any a mighty zealot in the Circumstantial of Religion, and marvellously censorious of others that come not up to his mind, as men of wide Principles and large Consciences: But in the mean time he is very negligent in secret Duties, a great stranger to self-denial, and walking humbly with God. He strains wonderfully at a Ceremony; but it may be he can swallow the gains of Unrighteousness, or the baits of Intemperance fast enough, it may be he will decry Superstition, and never wants a stone to sling at a prophane Church-man; But in the mean time he walks loosely in his Family, makes little conscience of his dealings, or will take up his Cups as freely as another, so he be not drunk. Or if he will not take a penny of his neighbours estate, he is most unmerciful to his good name, and will take up any report that is going. *Brethren you must make Conscience of the least sin,*

and of the least duty. But it is a fearful sign, when men are zealous against lesser sins, and yet connive at greater, as these are, *Mat. 23. 24.*

Direct. V. Take the first opportunity when God gives a fit season for any duty. Let not Satan beguile you by telling you of another or a better time. It may be, thou hast a purpose to reprove thy Brother for his Sin, but how long wilt thou be a purposing? Now God gives thee an opportunity, it may be thy backward heart saith, [*Not now but another time:*] And so it is put off, till he or thy self are removed, or he is hardned, or at least thou art guilty of the Sin, that he commits in the mean while: Because thou hast *not done thy duty* to prevent it. It is in thine heart to deal with thine unconverted friend or neighbour about his spiritual estate, but it may be while thou art delaying, death comes and Snatches him away in his Sins, or takes thee off, and so farewell for ever to any opportunity for doing the soul of thy Brother any good. How often are our closet duties hindred, or miserably disturbed, for want of care to lay hold on the first opportunity? We think another hour in the day may do as well, but then one thing or another unexpectedly falls in, that nothing is done, or nothing to purpose. Therefore beware of this cheat. A Man can scarce peep into the World, but one briar or thorne or another will catch him. Therefore take opportunity by the fore-top. Our Saviour would take his season for prayer before day, when his other work was pressing, *Mark 1. 35.*

Rule III. Do nothing of things Sacred without God's Command; nothing in things Civil without God's allowance. Offer not with strange fire. In Gods worship you must see you be well able to answer that question. *Who hath required these things at your hands?* Here the command must be observed without adding or diminishing, *Deut. 12. 32.* yet understanding this with two Cautions.

1. That men may not stamp their invented Ceremonies with

with a moral signification, nor impose, nor use them, though with good intentions of edifying the people by devised means, Mat. 15. 9. As if Christ had not sufficiently provided for the edifying his people without their devices. And tho' nothing may be used as a part of worship that God hath not commanded, Col. 2. 23. (for it is enough to make any thing rejected by the Lord of divine worship, if he shall say [*I commanded it not, spake it not, neither came it into my mind.* Jer. 7. 31. and 19. 5.) Yet nevertheless those things that are meerly circumstantial, and are in their general kind necessary and not intended as any part or means of Worship may be determined of by humane prudence according to the general Rules of the Word, which must always be observed, 1 Cor. 14. 26, 40. And for want of understanding, many have ignorantly condemned preaching by an Hour glass, in a High place, in Churches by way of Doctrine and Use, &c. running from one extream to another.

2. We may not think, that God's Ordinances remaining for substance may be forsaken, because of *some faults of the Administrators*, or in the way of their *Administration*. The *Administring of Gods Ordinances* belongs not to the *People*, but to the *Minister*: And if he fail in his duty, by *administring them in a way that is less edifying* it is my grief but his Sin. Hophni and Phineas were corrupt in their lives, N. B. and brought in much corruption and rudeness into the service of God. Yet Elkanah and Hannah with others of the godly, did nevertheless attend Gods Worship and Sanctuary, 1 Sam. 1. 2. Much corruption was crept in, both into the Doctrine and Worship, and lives of the Administrators in the Church of the Jews. Yet our Saviour (though he still cried down the Corruptions, and would N. B. not joyn in them) never prohibited Communion with them in Gods Worship, but enjoyns it, Mat. 5. 24. Mark 1. 44. Luke 5. 14. and practises it both He,

He, his Parents and Apostles, *Luke 2.21,22,24,39,41; 42,46. Acts 21.23,24,26.*

But now in *things Civil*, it is sufficient that you have the *allowance* of the Word, tho' not the Command: always provided that the *general Rules* be here observed, *to do all to the glory of God*, 1 Cor.10.31. And not to abuse our *lawful liberty* to the offence of others, *Rom.14.21.* Now your actions being thus justifiable, as to the matter of them (without which it is impossible, had you never so good intentions, to please God) the influence and virtue of Holy ends into them will be so effectual, as to turn all into Religious Duties; as the touch of the Philosophers Stone turns the baser Metal into Gold.

Rule IV. *In every action let God be uppermost, but in religious actions let God be all. Let none of your actions terminate in your selves, but labour to be able in sincerity to give this account of any thing you set about, that this you do, because it is pleasing unto God, because this is his will concerning you.* Set a mark upon this Caution. Beware in those actions wherein *Self* may bear a part, lest it should sweep Stakes, and carry all. You may in your *common Actions* have an eye to your *outward Commodity*, and *comfortable Being* in the world: But this must not be the *chief thing*, much less the *All* that you design herein: For by looking no higher than *self*, you incur this double mischief. 1. You lose so much from your own account. 2. You usurp upon the great Prerogatives of God. I fear we are not aware of the fearful evil that is in *Self-seeking*; it is no less than justling God beside the Throne, and setting our selves in his room. It is God's great Prerogative, and the proper Worship that is due to him as God, that he should be the *last end of all the operations of us his Creatures*, and that all our motions should terminate in Him. Now when we eye our *own Commodity* and *not God*, and look to *this* more than unto God, we arrogate the divine Prerogative to our selves, and set our selves above Him, which is no less than
heinous

heinous Idolatry : And if it be such an heinous Sin to bow down to an Image, which is but the giving God's *outward worship* to the Creature, how much more to seek and honour our selves, before God ? which is to give his *inward Worship*, which of all is the principal, to the creature. Oh how many, that pass for good Christians, will be found heinous Idolaters, because they have sought their own carnal ends more than God and his glory ? And many real Christians, tho' they mainly design God and his glory, yet in many particular actions contract great guilt, by looking no higher than themselves in what they do. I know you cannot be always thinking of God, yet I would have you never to forget what you have been taught ; in the entrance of every solemn action, to remember God, and make him your end. Lie down in the Name of God every Evening. Go forth in his Name every Morning, resolving to undertake all for Him. When you enter upon your Callings, sit down at all your Meals, make any Journey or Visit, do it as unto the Lord, with design to please him therein. This you may come to with care and watchfulness.

Again in *Religious actions* let God be all. Here *self* (I mean carnal self) must be shut out ; otherwise this dead Flie will spoil the Box of most precious oyntment. 'Tis true, *self* will be crowding in, but you must knock it down carefully : Otherwise if this be the predominant ingredient, all your duties will be but lost labour. What more pleasing to God than Prayer ? This is *Incense* before him, *Psal.* 141. 2. What more delightful than *Alms* ? This is a Sacrifice acceptable and well pleasing unto Him, *Phil.* 4. 8. How happy a Testimony had *Cornelius* ? Thy *Prayers and Alms* are come up as a memorial before God, *Acts* 10. 4. Yet when *self* is predominant in those Duties, *Prayers, Alms, &c.* are all lost, *Mat* 6. 7. and 23. 5.

Rule V. When you have done all, be careful to deny, all, *Luke* 17. 10. do not deny God's mercy in inabling and assisting you : This must be with all thankfulness observed :

observed: But attribute nothing to your selves, and give God all the glory. Take the pattern of Holy David, 1 Chron. 29. 14. *But who am I, and what is my People, that we should offer so willingly? Of thine own have we given thee.* [And of Blessed Paul. 1 Cor. 15. 10, *Not I, but the grace of God which was with me.*] And of good Nehemiah, who when he had done most eminent service for God, flies at last to pardoning mercy, Neh. 13. 22. *Remember me, O God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.*

Rule VI. *Do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus*, Col. 3. 17. Having carefully set out for God in the Morning, and directed your common actions to him as your end throughout the day, doing all in his sight and with a desire to Please Him therein, bring all to Christ in the Evening, and present all unto God by him, confidently expecting Gods acceptance and reward for all that you have done. For this he hath promised, be your actions never so mean because they were done as his service, Col. 3. 22, 23, 24. Ephes. 6. 6, 7, 8, If you neglect this, you lose all at last: For God will accept of no sacrifice but from the hand of the Priest, and therefore you must look for no acceptance with God, nor any reward from him, but only through Christ, 1 Pet. 2. 5, Job. 14. 6. You must be sure therefore not only to make a formal mention of Christs Name, but to build all your hope of success only upon him, and to come to God, with an Actual and Lively dependance upon him,

Thus I have resolved the Case propounded. I will but Answer an Objection, and briefly press your Duty by some Motive, and so conclude.

Object. You bind heavy burdens: What! must we be always in the Traces? Surely this severity of Religion is more than needs.

Ans. 1. Burden, man! why, it is thy Happiness. If Holiness and pleasing God be a burden, Health is a burden, Heaven and Happiness are burdens.

Ans.

Ans. 2. This is no other burden than what God himself hath bound upon your Consciences, *Rom.* 9. 20. *Who art thou, O Man, that repliest against God?* Have I put upon you a devised and unnecessary strictness? Or bound that burden upon you which I will not touch with one of my fingers? *1 Cor.* 9. 8. *Say I this as a man, or saith not the Law the same also?* I pray you whose word is this? *Be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long, Prov.* 23, 17. *Do all to the glory of God, 1 Cor.* 10. 31. *Exercise thy self unto Godliness 1 Tim.* 4. 7. What have I pressed, but what the Saints have practised? *Phil.* 3. 13, 14. *One thing I do, I press towards the Mark, Psal.* 27. 4. *One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek After.* And *Psal.* 119. 38. *Thy servant that is devoted to thy fear, Gen.* 5. 22. *Enoch walked with God three hundred years.* What is this but what the Scripture hath foretold shall be? *They shall walk up and down in the Name of the Lord, Zech.* 10. 12. *Then shall be upon the Bells of the Horses and every Pot in Jerusalem, holiness to the Lord, Zech.* 14. 20, 21. Dispute not against God, but up and be doing. It is an ill sign, when the heart rises against the strictness of the duty: You utterly mistake in thinking this life of strictness to be a bondage. Who have joy unspeakable and full of glory? Who do know the peace that passeth all understanding, if not those that do thus walk with God?

Now, my Brethren, let me beseech you to be the conscientious Practitioners of this great Lesson, Study to do always those things that are *pleasing unto God.* Oh that I knew but how to engage you; that I could but get you to set these Rules before you all the days of your lives, for your practice! 'Tis not enough that you give the hearing, and like the Preacher, and approve the Doctrine. But Sirs, what will you do? Too many of my Hearers are like *Ezekiel's*, *Chap* 33, 32. What say you, Brethren, will you learn with me? O that I might lead you on to a through acquaintance with the strictness and power of Religion, and

to that holy frame that will be *God's delight* and your *felicity*. Brethren, what seek I for? God knows this is my ambition, that I may but help you on in the way of Holiness: I would not that you should be such bad Proficients, as to be always of the lower form and keep on meerly in a dull and barren course. My desire for you is, that you should not be Shrubs, but Cedars, of tall growth choice Experience, singular Communion, walking with God, shining to the conviction of the world, Will you let me but prevail with you in so good a Design? Why should you mourn at the last and say, *How have I hated instruction and my heart despised Reproof? I have not obeyed the voice of my Teachers, nor inclined my ear to them that instructed me*, Prov. 5. 11, 12, 13. That I may invite you to this holy course, Consider,

I. *It is very possible*: For first, *God is very easy to be pleased*: He is not like a froward Master, that cannot, that will not be pleased. If you do but make it your study and your care to please him. and thoroughly set your hearts to it, your willing mind shall be accepted, 2 Cor. 8. 12. And tho' you should not go through with the work, God will say, *Thou didst well that it was in thy heart*, 2 Chron. 6. 8. When the heart is set to please the Lord, and we do unfeignedly put to it, tho' there be very many failings, God will overlook them, 2 Chron. 30. 18, 19, 20.

Secondly, *God hath told you what will please him*, and hath cut out your work to your hand. You need not say, *Wherewith shall we come before the Lord? He hath shewed you what is good, and what he requireth of you*, Mich. 6. 6, 7, 8. You need not say, *Who shall ascend into Heaven, to bring down the mind of God from Heaven?* No, *the word is nigh you*, Rom. 10. 6, 8. God hath set before you in his Law, as in a Table on one side the things that please; on the other, those that displease him. Oh that you may be found among those that choose *the things that please him*, Isa. 56. 4, 5. Otherwise since you know your Masters will,

and

and you do it not, you will be found worthy of *many stripes* Luke 12. 47.

Thirdly, *God hath given particular Rules for the doing of all your work in that manner that will please Him.* Had God told you only what must be done, you might have been at a loss, But he hath prescribed the **very Manner**, how every thing must be done, that you might have full direction, *Rom. 12. 8. 1 Pet. 4. 11.* He hath shewed you how you must Pray, and Hear, and give Alms: How you must carry it in all your relations. He hath told you not only how you must fast, but how you must eat; to wit, with watchfulness, and temperance; not as those who have nothing to do, but to fill their paunches, but with an eye to his glory, as those that are feeding and relieving the servants of Jesus Christ. He hath shewed you, not only how you should *rest on the Lords day*, but how you must follow your Calling on the rest; to wit, with diligence and discretion, minding him as your end, as those that herein serve the Lord Christ. He hath told you how you must manage your dealings with equity and charity, doing the very same to others, that your consciences tell you, you would have them in the like cases to do unto you: how you must sleep, even as those that know he compasseth your path, and your lying down; and how you must awake; to wit, so as to be still with him.

Fourthly, *God hath given you special helps to this end you have the mind of Christ*, 1 Cor. 2. 16. And you have the *Spirit of Christ*, 1 Cor 2. 12. Indeed *they that are in the flesh cannot please God* But *you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit*, Rom. 8. 8. 9. You that are Believers have not the Law only in your Bibles, but in *your Hearts* Heb. 8. 10.

II. *It is very profitable.* Glorious advantages shall you have by this course. First, this is the most speedy and certain way to *assurance*: For want of which many of you complain; but henceforth you must **complain no more**; For either you will follow this course, and

and then you will have it : Or you will not, and then cease your Hypocritical complaints, when it is through your own wilful disobedience that you are without it. When once you are habituated to this course, and do find it to be the chief of your care, and that which your very hearts are set upon above all things else, to glorifie and please God, and approve your selves in his sight, you cannot want Assurance, unless through your own ignorance : For this is the most undoubted evidence in the world, that you are the Children of God, whatever unallowed failings you may be guilty of.

Secondly, *Hereby you shall be certain of Gods gracious and favourable presence always with you :* See the Text, *He that sent me is with me, for I do always those things that please Him.*

Thirdly, *By this means you shall be always laying up a Treasure in Heaven.* Brethren, What are you for ? Are you men for eternity, or are you for present things ? Is your design for Glory, Honour and Immortality ? Are you for Riches in the other world ? Or of Dung-hill Spirits, preferring your part in *Paris* before your part in *Paradise* ? If you are for true Riches, here is your way : By this you shall be daily and hourly increasing the stock of your own glory : My vehemence is only, that fruit may abound to your account ; that all you do might meet you in Heaven, and Christ may shew your good works another day as the Widdows did *Dorcas* her Garments, *Acts* 9. 39.

C H A P. III.

A Fourth CASE of CONSCIENCE.

What weariness in, and unwillingness to duties, may stand with grace, and what not ?

For

For the resolving this, some Distinctions must be premised, and then some Conclusions laid down.

Distinct. This weariness and unwillingness must be distinguished. 1. According to the *Degrees* of it; and so it is either *partial* and *gradual*, or else *prevalent* and *plenary*. 2. According to the *Subject* of it, And so this weariness is either of the *Members*, or else of the *Mind*. 3. According to the *prevalency* of it, and so it is either *transient* and *occasional*, or else *settled* and *habitual*. 4. According to the *sense* we have of it, and so it is either matter of *allowance* to us, or matter of *annoyance*. 5. According to the *Cause* of it, and so it is either from a *fixed dislike* of the food, or else from an *accidental distemper* of the Stomach. 6. According to the *effects* of it, for it is either *victorious*, and makes us give over duties, or else *abhorred* and *repulsed* by Grace, the Christian still holding on in the way of Duty.

Conclus. 1. Where this weariness is only in the *Members* (or at least *chiefly*) but there is still a *willingness* of the *Mind*, this is no matter of questioning our Estate. Where the *Mind* out-goes and out-does the Body, and the Appetite to Duties continues in the vigour, tho' there be a languishing of the *natural strength*, and weariness of the *Bodily Organs*, this is not our sin, but affliction. But too commonly the Body hath so much influence upon the *Mind*, and causeth a listlessness and sluggishness there, and makes it negligent in its office: Yet when this doth proceed from the failing of the spirits, tired with bodily labour and exercise and from the distemper of the parts, our most pitiful Father considers our frame, and remembers we are but dust: And our merciful High-Priest, that is not untouched with the sense of our infirmities, is ready to frame our excuse, *that the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak,*

2. Where our weariness in, and unwillingness to duties, is only *gradual* and *partial*, not *plenary* and *prevalent*, it is not sufficient to conclude our selves graceless: While the Twins are together in the Womb

and two Nations within our Bowels, there will be contrary inclinations. The flesh will never say *A-men*, to a good motion, as such, but will be lusting against the Spirit, and will hang back, when the spirit puts forwards, and pulls down, when the Spirit bends upwards: So that while corruption remaineth there will be always a dissenting party, and continual conflicts, from whence it is no wonder there should arise *some* weariness: Yet the *Spirit* is the *prevailing interest*, and tho' oft-times *foyled*, yet hath *mostly*, the mastery in the combat, and carries it against the flesh, though not without much resistance and reluctancy from the rebel opponent.

3. Where this *weariness* is only *transient*, during the present temptation or defection; which, as soon as the tired Soul can get out of it, returns to its former temper and pleasure in holy duties, there is only matter of humiliation. But when it is the settled, permanent and habitual frame of the mind, it is a just ground of questioning our State. The Holy Psalmist under a desertion, was even almost perswaded to give over with Religion; but when he is *himself* nothing is so sweet, nothing so lovely and desireable to him, as the duties of holiness. But for them who have in their ordinary settled course and frame, no mind to duties, but are halled to them by Conscience or engaged by Company, Custom, or the like, their case is fearful in that measure, that duty is unpleasing and not loved.

4. Where this *weariness* of, and *unwillingness* to Duties is painful and grievous, as a sore in the Eye, as a sickness in the Heart, the state is good: But where it is naturally allowed, and meets with little or no resistance, it is a black mark. For this argues there is nothing but flesh, that there is no contrary Principle in such a heart. For if there were, the Spirit would at least make opposition: This was the very frame of those unsanctified sinners, that counted the Sabbaths and Services of God an unprofitable burden, a very
weariness

weariness, a bondage not to be born, *Mal.* 1. 13. A gracious heart when *under* such a distemper, as that God's service seems a *weariness*, is even weary of it self, while this is burdensom he is a burden to himself: He cannot enjoy himself, while in such a frame where-in he cannot enjoy God: And if this be the Case, our State is good, though the frame be bad.

5. Where this *weariness* and *unwillingness* is not from a rooted dislike of the food, but accidental and preternatural indisposition of the Stomach, or being disappointed of Gods presence in duties, the main state is safe. You know, under a distemper the Appetite may disgust, and nauseate the food, that a man doth love above all others meats when he is well: And so it is here. Do you, when you are your selves, relish more sweetness in Gods service than in your Meats and Drinks? Are no sweets so delightful to you as fellowship and communion with God, when you can attain to it in duties? Do you come away discontented because you cannot meet with God? Is the ground, why your countenances fall, and your hearts be discouraged, because you have (*with them*) toyed and spread the Net, and have not caught what you went for, because you have no answer nor income from God? If it be thus, it is a sign your hearts are set upon God: And that you place the happiness and comfort of your lives in God, and so that your state is safe: Otherwise when there is a fixed antipathy to duties, and an habitual dislike of them, and contrariety to them, the Case is very sad.

6. Where our *weariness* and *unwillingness* is such as makes us to give over our duties, so as to live in the ordinary neglect of them, it is a fearful sign: But where notwithstanding present discouragements, we hold on in the performance of our duties and a humble waiting upon God, for removal of our difficulties, till we are brought to a better frame, this argues well. The Church her self may be greatly deserted. But then she gives not over duties, but seeks after her

beloved, and makes diligent Enquiry, and will not be at rest untill she hath found him. But the hypocrite gives up and will not wait upon the Lord any longer. Not but that a deserted soul, may under the violence of temptations omit duties for a time; But this condition this while is most *painful, restless and grievous* to him, and he quickly returns again, and never comes to live quiet, in the ordinary omission of known duties.

Conclu. 7. When our *weariness* and *unwillingness* is such as makes us fall out with the service of Christ, and willing to ease our selves of his yoke, and to throw off his burden; This is a bad sign: But when we fall out with our selves, and justifie and approve Christs Ways and Service, it is well. Thus it was with *Paul*: He doth not quarrel with the Law as too strict and too severe, nor think of breaking off his bonds, and taking his liberty, but he *pleads* for the Law, and greatly approves it, and commends and condemns the backwardness of his own nature, *Rom. 7. 12.*

25. When men are more willing to be rid of Christs burden than of the distemper that makes it grievous, and cast about for ease, by widening their bonds, and not by bringing their minds to them, it is a woful discovery of an unsound heart. And thus much for this Case.

Awakening Questions propounded to the Unconverted.

And Counsels to the Converted.

THAT I may reach every Mans Case, I shall speak something to the Unconverted, and something to the Converted.

For the Unconverted, there are these Six *Questions*

ons, which I would advise them to put to their Souls.

Q. I. What Estate did my Soul come into the World in? Was it not in a state of *Death*? *Ephes. 2. 1.* An estate of *Wrath*? *Verse 3.* Sirs, awake and bethink your selves where you are, and whither you are going. While you are in your natural, unconverted, unbelieving state all your sins are unpardoned, and the wrath of God abideth on you, *Acts 3. 19. John. 3. 36.* Suppose you saw a poor Creature hanging over a burning fiery furnace by nothing but a twine thread, like to break every moment, would not your hearts shake for such an one? Sirs it is your very Case, you hang over the infernal burnings by nothing but the small thread of your lives, which you know not but it may crack the next moment, and then where are you? Is this a Case for you to go on merrily, and contentedly in?

Q. II. What condition is my soul now in? Am I changed and renewed by Conversion, or am I not? Speak Conscience; hath this man, this woman been soundly and savingly changed both in heart and life? Where are your Evidences? Can you shew marks of the Lord Jesus upon your souls. Let your Conscience answer: Where was the place? What was the means? When was the time, that thy soul was thoroughly renewed? At least if you cannot shew the Time, Place, nor Means, can you *prove* the thing? Can you say with him [one thing I know, that whereas I was blind I now see.] Sirs, be not deceived, I tell you whatever you be, and whatever you do, nothing will avail you to Salvation, except you be *new Creatures*, *Gal. 6. 15.*

Q. III. What if I should lose my soul? What fair work should I make of it then? This is very possible, *Mat. 16. 26.* Yea it is the Case of the most: There are but few, few of the Children of men, that do escape safe to Heaven, *Mat. 7. 14.* Sirs, be aware of your danger, and fear lest a promise being left of entering into Rest, any of you should at last come short of it

Heb. 4. 1. Suppose a man was to travel thro' some perillous Wood or Wilderness, having but one Jewel in all the World, in which his *All* was bound up, and should see some stand on one hand, and some on the other, and here one company in this place, and another in that, crying out under the hands of some cruel Robbers: Oh in what fear would this traveller go, lest he should lose his Jewel, and be robbed of all at once? Why thou art the Man. This traveller is thy self: This Jewel is thy Soul: This Wilderness, or Wood, is this World thou art to Travel through swarms of Sins, Legions of Devils, a whole World of Temptations. These are the Robbers that lie in wait for thy Soul, and if all that these can do, can keep thee out of Heaven thou shalt never come there. Oh what if thy Pride, or Worldliness, thy Delays, and Triflings in Religion, should at last betray thy Soul into the Robbers hands! Other losses may be repaired; but thy Soul being once lost, God is lost, Christ is lost, Heaven, all lost for ever more,

Q. IV. *What do I do for my Soul?* What have a Soul, an immortal Soul to care for, and look no better after it, nor bestow no more of my time, or pains upon it, no more of my thoughts about it? When *Augustus* the Emperor saw the outlandish Women carrying *Apes* and such kind of strange Creatures in the Streets in their Arms, he asked, What! have the Women in these Countries no Children? So it may be said of many among us, that are early and late at their worldly business, but let the care of Religion lie by neglected; what! have these men no Souls? Why man, hast thou a Soul, and yet dost so little in thy Closet, so little in thy Family, from day to day for it? What! meanest thou O sleeper? Arise call upon thy God, that thou perish not *Jonah i. 7.* What will become of thy Soul, if thou lookest to it only at this careless rate?

Q. V. *What if God should this night require thy Soul?*

Soul? Where would Death land thee? Luke 12. 19, 20. There was one that promised himself many merry Days and Years, as it is like thou dost; but that same Night God called for his Soul. Sirs, are you in your Postures? Are you fit to die? Oh dare not to live in such a Case, nor in that Course, in which you would not dare to Die?

Q. VI. What a happy Case were I in, if I had but secured my Soul? Oh, if this were but once done, how sweetly mightest thou live! Then thou mightest eat thy Bread, and drink thy Wine with a merry Heart, when assured, that God accepteth thee and thy Works, *Eccles. 9. 7.* Then thou mightest lie down in Peace, and rise up in Peace; go out and come in in Peace; then thou mightest look Death in the Face, thou mightest look Dangers in the Face. Yea, look Devils in the Face, and never be afraid; Oh Sirs, if there be any Ensurance-Office for Souls in all the World, one would think you should be seeking to it. And thus much for the *Questions*, which tho' of use to all, yet were intended chiefly for unconverted, impenitent Souls.

Counsels and Cordials for the Converted.

The Counsels are these.

Coun. I. **T**hat you put hard to it, to get that by these hazardous opportunities, that may quit all your cost. What Pity is it, that you should adventure much, and yet gain but little? How sad would it be, if you should at last suffer deeply for your Conscientious Attendance upon God in such Seasons, and when you come into a Prison or into Banishment, should find that you had not got that by them that would bear you out.

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Coun. II. *That you value no Mercy barely as it does content and please your Flesh; but as it stands in order to Eternity: And may serve to the furthering your Makers Glory.* God hath preserved your Liberties, and hath restored mine. But what of all this? Unless we improve our Liberties to Eternity, what are we better than those that are in Prison, if this be all the Advantage we have, a little more content to our Flesh? The Cypher put to the Figure is of great Consideration, but put by it self, it signifies nothing at all. These Creature-comforts separated from their respect to God, and Eternity, are of no value: But in order to these Ends they signifie much. We have ease and fulness, when many others are in Pain, and Poverty; and we have much the start of them, if we be wise to improve our Health in laying in apace against a wet Day, and preparing apace for Eternity: And if we serve the Lord with the more abundant Diligence, and chearfulness, and gladness of Heart, in the abundance of all things. But if this be all we have by it, that our Bones do lie a little softer, and our Palates are tickled with a little the more delight, what profit have we by our Health, or our Estates? If they that be sick, or poor, do love the Lord as well, or serve the Lord as much as we, they have the Advantage of us, and better were it for us to be poor and sick as they be.

Coun. III. *Rest not in probabilities for Heaven, but labour for certainties. Beloved, certainty may be had: Else the Counsel of God to make our Calling and Election sure were in vain: 2 Pet. 1. 10. Else the Experience of the Saints were but a Delusion; who tell us they know they are passed from Death to Life, 1 John 3. 14. 2 Cor. 5. 1. Job 19. 25, 26. Else the Power of Self-reflection were to no Purpose, and the Spirit which is in Man should not know the Things of the Man, 1 Cor. 2. 11. Now if a certainty may be had, will you not put in for it, and turn every Stone but you will get it? Sirs, now, if ever, you have need to*
put

put hard to it to get Assurance. We are at miserable uncertainties for all outward Enjoyments; we know not how soon we may be called to part with them all: Christians what do you mean? Will you be content to have nothing sure? Will you not settle your Everlasting Conditions, now you are so unsettled as to your outward Condition? What will you do in the Day of Visitation when Extremity comes in upon you, if you have no Assurance that God will receive you? It would make ones Heart tremble to think of being put upon such a fearful Temptation to part with all for Christ, and not to be sure of him neither? O Man, what an Advantage will the Tempter now have upon thee, when he shall suggest, wilt thou be such a Fool as to let go all at once? Thou seest Heaven is not sure, Christ is not sure, therefore keep the World whilst thou hast it, and hold what thou hast sure: Beloved, what a fearful slighting of God and contempt of Heaven, and Glory, and all the Promises doth this argue, that you can be content to be at uncertainties whether they be yours or no? How many of you be there, that do not know whether you be going to Heaven or Hell? And what desperate carelessness doth this argue, to go on from Week to Week in such a Case? Some hopes you have that you shall do well, but put not me off with hopes, never be satisfied till you are able to say, not only, *I hope I shall be saved, but I know I am passed from Death to Life, I know that when the earthly House of this Tabernacle shall be dissolved, I have a building not made with Hands, &c.* 2 Cor. 5. 1.

Coun. IV. *Be not satisfied with the Truth of Grace, but reach after the growth.* Do not think all is done when you have attained the Evidence of Grace, but put on hard towards the increase. That Person that doth not desire and design Perfection, never came up to sincerity. He that desires Grace truly, desires it not barely as a Bridge to Heaven, and so to seek no more than will just bear his Charges thither: But he
desires

desires it for its own sake ; and therefore desires the height of it. That Person, that desires Grace only for Heavens sake, and enquires, *what* is the lowest measure of Grace that any one may have and come to Heaven, (by which he meaneth, but to be saved from Miſery) upon this Deſign, that if he could but come to that pitch, he would deſire no more ; that Perſon is rotten at the Heart. Chriſtians, the Lord doth expect of you, that you ſhould not be Babes and Dwarfs ; He looks now eſpecially, that you ſhould make ſome progreſs: What do you more than heretofore ? What ! Do you feel his Spurs in your ſides, and his Whip at your backs ; and yet never mend your pace in Religion, nor ſtir one jot the faſter : Let me commend to you *Paul's* ſtudy, *Phil.* 3. 12, 13, 14. It argues a baſe and unworthy Spirit to content our ſelves with little things in Religion.

Coun. V. *Labour that Holineſs may become your Nature, and Religion your Buſineſs.* Then you are come to ſomewhat indeed in Religion, when the work of God is become your natural and beloved Employment, your Meat and Drink, your Work and Wages. When your Tongues and Hearts are as naturally employ'd for God, as others for the World : Much of that may be attained by conſtant Care and Prayer. Brethren, let Gods Work be done by you, not by the by, but as your greateſt Buſineſs, *Seek firſt the Kingdom of God*, *Mat.* 6. 33. And ſo whatever you be, you may be able to give that Account of your ſelves, that our Saviour did when they enquired of Him, *That you are about your Fathers buſineſs*, *Luke* 2. 59.

Coun. VI. *Conſine not your Religion to your Knees, but carry on an Even-ſpun Thread of Holineſs through your whole Courſe.* Brethren, 'tis the diſgrace of Religion, that Chriſtians are ſo unlike themſelves, unleſs it be when they are in holy Duties. This wounds Religion to the quick, when it ſhall be ſaid of Profeſſors, theſe Men indeed will pray like Angels, but
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for ought we can see, they are as Peevish and as Touchy as any other Men, and they are as hard in their Dealings, and make as little Conscience of their Words as others do: Beloved, think not Religion lies only, or chiefly, in Praying, Hearing, Reading. No, you must be throughout Religious, Sirs, bring forth your Religion out of your Closets into your ordinary Course. Let there not be a Life of Holiness on the outside of the Cloath, but let Holiness be woven into the whole of your Conversations. Here lies the excellency and difficulty of Religion: When you have the baits of Intemperance before you, then to hold the Reins hard, and deny your Flesh, when you have Provocation before you, and then to bite in your Passions and bridle the unruly Member: When you have Dealings with others, then to proceed by that golden Rule of Equity and Charity, *To do to others as your Conscience tells you, you would have them do in the like Case to you.* When you are called upon in your several Relations, then to behave your selves with that tendernefs and love, with that reverence and obedience, with that courtesie and condescension and kindness that becomes you in your various Capacities: In this I say lies the excellency of Religion.

Coun. VII. *Ever walk with your End in your Eye.* It is true, according to the usual Similitude. The Traveller thinks not of his Journeys End every step, nor need he: Yet there is no Traveller but thinks of it at his setting out: Brethren, there is nothing hinders, but that with Prayer and Watchfulness you might come to this, in every solemn Action to mind God as your End: Impose this upon your selves as your daily Rule to walk by, never to lie down but with these Thoughts [*Well, I will make use of my Bed as an Ordinance of God, for my natural Refreshment, that a weary Servant of his may be fitted for his Work.*] Never to rise up but with these Thoughts, [*I will set forth this Day in the Name of the Lord; and make it my business this Day throughout to please him.*] Never to set about our Callings,

Callings, but in the Entrance to think thus [*I will set about my Imployment in Obedience to God, because this is his Will, that I should walk with him in my Place and Station.*] Never to sit down to your Tables but thinking [*I will now Eat and Drink, not meerly to feed my Flesh, but to cherish a Servant of Christ Jesus, that he may have strength for his Service:*] Charge this upon your selves, and examine in the Evening, how you have minded it, and check your selves wherein you come short. Once learn this, and you are come to something: And you shall have the undoubted Evidence of your Sincerity, and shall know the inside of that blessed Mystery of walking with God.

Coun. VIII. *Be, and do more than ordinary in your Families and Closets, now in the want of more Publick Ordinances.*

1. In your Closets: See that your Consciences be able to bear you witness, that under God's extraordinary Providences, you do more than ever, in answer thereunto. It may be you Prayed twice in the Day heretofore; why should you not at such a Time as this is, make one visit more than ordinary to Heaven, daily to represent before God the Calamities of his Church. This be sure of, that somewhat more than heretofore must be now done, else God will look upon Himself as intolerably slighted; and upon his Church as most unnaturally neglected, if we do not now put to it. Be more than ever in Self-examination. God doth look, that when he is trying of us, we should be much in the Tryal of our selves. And here let me put it to your Consciences: How are your Rules for daily Examination looked after? Do you try your selves by them from Day to Day? Ah wretched Negligence! What! Have you given your Approbation and passed your Promise, and yet even in such a Day as this, so much forget your Duty? God expects it of you, that now you see him angry, you should with more jealous fear, and tender Circumspection, and holy watchfulness, and self-denial walk

walk before him; else you will greatly incense his Indignation, when he shall see, that you slight his Anger.

2. In your *Families*: Christians, now the Lord calls aloud upon you to set your Houses in order. Oh see what is amiss in them, and strive to cast out that which may be a Provocation. Three Things I advise you in reference to your Families.

1. *That you set up the solemn exercise of Catechising weekly among them*: Methinks I should not question, but that in every godly Family there is a care of the *Catechism*. But when Governors do only impose it in general upon their Families, and occasionally take an Account, I find but little progress is made: And therefore I beseech you to make it a *Solemn, Standing and Constant Exercise*, and to expect of your Children and Servants as due an account Weekly of what they have learn'd in the Principles of Religion, as of any Business of your own. Oh the incredible Benefit that would speedily come of this, if I could but perswade and prevail with my Hearers in so small a Request as this!

2. *That you be often enquiring into their spiritual Estates*; follow them close, and let them have no quiet, till you see they seriously mind and seek spiritual Things. Put them upon secret Prayer: Provide helps for them till they are able to go without them: Shew them often, the necessity of Regeneration, and Conversion, and the Nature thereof. Put them in mind of the fearful Misery of an unregenerate Estate. Ask them often whether they are Converted or not. Shew them the Danger of delaying in such a Case. Beloved, 'tis too sadly evident, that as the Ordinances are now somewhere managed, there is little Conversion-work like to be done. Oh you Governours of Families, do but your Duty in your several Places, and I doubt not but many Souls will nevertheless be Born to Christ, even in such a Day as this.

3. *Call them to an Account of their Proficiency by every opportunity.* If there be but a Sermon, or a Chapter read, let them give you some Account of it. Thus our Saviour, when the Disciples (his Family) were in Private, he was asking them, whether they did understand, and profit by what they heard in Publick,
 ——— *Mat. 13. 1.*

Coun. IX. *Be not discouraged by the present Difficulties of Religion, but rather rejoice in the opportunity to shew your Love and Loyalty to your Lord.* Do not think God hath dealt hardly with you, now your Religion is like to cost you something, and presently think of shrinking and drawing back to preserve your Safety. If you do love the Lord Jesus, you should rejoyce and be exceeding glad in the opportunity to shew it. Brethren, what hath your Religion cost you hitherto? And for shame suffer not your shrinking and withdrawing to tell the World, that you have not love enough to Christ, to engage you to run any hazard for him. Do you indeed love the Lord? Oh then now rejoyce, and be exceeding glad, for never had you such an opportunity, in all your Lives, to shew your love as now; for never were you called to adventure so for him, and his service, as now you be. Now resolve, that if Religion will make you Vile, you will be yet more Vile, and let your Zeal and Resolution for God be intended and heightened by the Opposition.

The Cordials follow, which are Sacrament-Cordials.

Most dearly Beloved Brethren,

THis Holy Sacrament is appointed as a Sealing Ordinance between Christ and you. The Covenants are made, the Terms agreed to on both sides; God is willing to be yours, to all intents and purposes

poses: Your Shield and exceeding great Reward, your Refuge and your Rest, your God, and your Guide. While Christ hath it you shall never want; and what God is to him, that he (in your Order) will be to you.

You again (through Grace) are willing to be his: His in his own Way; and on his own Terms, willing to serve him; willing to fashion your selves after him: Willing to be betrothed to him, and to be commanded by him; to use his Remedies, to follow his Counsels, and to acquiesce in him as our Blessedness: Thus all are agreed; the Articles are drawn; Covenants both on Gods part and yours are ready written: And here you are come to put all past Controversie, and mutually to Seal and Subscribe: Oh happy and blessed Meeting! Christians, do not forget your Errand: Remember where you are, and what you are come for, and know that you are upon the solemnest Transaction, that ever passed between the Creator and the Creature. It is Gods admirable Condescension that he will be tied to us, and enter into Bonds to us, to bless us and reward us. And because our Faith is weak, He hath brought his Surety with him, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is a Surety on his part, as well as ours, to undertake for the fulfilling of the Promises. And he hath brought the visible Signs and Pledges by which all shall be firmly past and ratified before your Eyes. *This is the New Testament in my Blood*, Luke 22. 20. Written in my Blood, Ratified in my Blood. Oh Sirs, this is that which God doth here reach forth unto you with his own Hand this Day! *The New Testament in Christs Blood*. Christians, prepare your Ears, and rotize up your Faith, and now believe and hear some of the blessed Articles of that Covenant, that God doth here Sign and Seal to you: I shall mention only Nine, which I advise you to lay next your Hearts, while you have a Day to live. And you shall find the Vir-

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tue of these Cordials strong and operative in all Conditions.

Art. I. *That he will fulfil to you the Place of all Relations,* 1 Cor. 6. 18. *I will be a Father to you, and ye shall be my Sons and Daughters.* Whatever Children may expect from a Father, that you may look for from me: I will find you Meat, be not thoughtful, *I know that ye have need of all these Things,* Mat. 26. 31, 32. You shall be cloathed out of my Ward-robe, *Mat. 6. 28, 29, 30.* And wear my Livery: And when you have need of Correction, I will remember to do it in Mercy, and you shall find, *That as a Man chastneth his Son, so the Lord your God chastneth you,* Deut. 8. 5.

I will be a Husband to you, and will betroth you unto me for ever, Hos. 2. 19. You shall not need to fear, your Maker is your Husband: I will give you my choice Love: I will give you my Heart.

I will be a Lord and Sovereign to you: The Lord is your Judge: The Lord is your Law-giver: The Lord is your King: Fear not the unrighteousness of Men, I will judge your Cause, I will defend your Rights, you shall not stand or fall at Mans Bar; you shall not be cast at their Votes: Let them Curse, I will Bless: Let them Condemn, I will Justifie: Who shall accuse when I shall acquit you: Who shall lay any thing to your charge, when I do discharge? When you come upon Tryal for your Life to have your Eternal State decided, you shall see your Friend, your Father on the Bench: And you shall surely stand in Judgment and be found at the right Hand amongst the Sheep, and hear the King say, *Come ye blessed.*

I will be a Shepherd to you, fear no Evil, for I am with you, you shall not want, for I will feed you: You shall not wander to be lost, for I will restore you: I will cause you to lie down in green Pastures; and lead you beside the Still Waters: If my Officers be careless, I will do it my self: As for you, Oh my Flock, thus saith the Lord God, I will judge between
Cattle

Cattle and Cattle, I will feed *my* Flock, saith the Lord God, and cause them to lie down. I will seek that which is lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and bind up that which is broken, and strengthen that which is Sick, but I will destroy the Fat and the Strong, and will feed them with Judgment.

I will be a Physician to you. I will heal your backslidings, and cure all your Diseases, fear not, never did Soul miscarry that left it self in my Hands, and would but follow my Prescription

Well, this is one of the Articles that God here sealeth to, that he will be to you in the place of all Relations: Silence, thou quarrelling Unbelief; methinks, I hear thy Whispers: That this is too good to be true, that it were presumption in us to count upon all this. What, shall they that must say to Corruption, *thou art my Father*, be able to say to the incorruptible God, Thou art my Father? Shall they that must say to the Worm, *thou art my Mother and my Sister*, be able to say to the Angels of Light, Ye are my fellow Servants? And to the King of Glory, Thou art my Brother, and my Kinsman? Shall Majesty espouse himself to Miserie and the Worms-meat be married to Immortality and Life? How can these Things be?

Nay but, O Heart of Infidelity, what art thou that repliest against God? Dost thou, under a lly pretence of Humility, question with thy Maker, and call his Veracity into doubt? Is not this his Word, his Promise, his Covenant? And is not there his Seal? Why then dost thou doubt, O thou of little Faith?

Art. II. *That he will entitle you to all the Divine Persons and Perfections, Gen. 17. 7. I will be a God unto thee; mark, God gives away himself, and he gives his Son to you, Isa. 42. 6. I will give thee for a Covenant of*

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the People. This is the Churches Triumph, *Isa. 9. 6. Unto us a Son is given.* And he gives his Spirit to you, *John 14. 16. He shall give you another Comforter.* And Believers acknowledge the Receipt, *1 Cor. 2. 12. We have received the Spirit which is of God.* Thus you see all the *Persons* of the God-head are made over to you, and so are all the *Perfections* of the God-head; and so the Covenant runs, *Gen. 17. 1. I am the Almighty God, or the All-sufficient God, walk before me and be upright:* these are the Terms between God and a Believer. Be thou upright before me, and I will be All-sufficient to thee: The All-sufficiency of God is the Comprehension of all his *Perfections*. Truth without Power, or Power without Wisdom, or both without Goodness, would not be *All-sufficiency*: All-sufficiency takes in all that is in God (if we may speak of Gods most simple Essence, according to the shallow reach of our present Capacity) yea it comprehends infinitely more than can be said or thought. Why now this is the Covenant of Grace which God establishes with you this Day, that he will be a God *All-sufficient to you.*

Christians, rouse up your Faith: Now appropriate and apply the Promises; now believe strongly, and stedfastly, and believing will fill you with Joy unspeakable, and full of Glory. I do not wonder, if your Faith be put to it in so high and great a Mystery; to draw nigh to infinite Majesty, and consideringly, and without hesitancy to say, *Thou art mine and all that thou hast*, this is no easie Thing. But thou mayst not dare to doubt it. Canst thou question him who is the Truth? Can the strength of *Israel* lie, or in his Word deceive thee? But the Soul is ready to reply, Oh the Thing is too high, and too great for me to presume to believe, and is ready with *Peter* astonished, to cry out, *Depart, Lord, for I am a sinful Man.* But why doth thine Hand tremble, and thy Heart fail thee; and thy Feet (with *Peters* when

when walking on the Waters) begin to sink? What dost thou stick at? Is it at the Truth of the Promise? No, saith the trembling Soul, but sure so much can never belong to me so sinful, I am afraid it is not mine. Why, what saith the Promise? *Only be upright.* What though thou hast an hundred Failings, yet thy Heart is upright: The bent of thy Heart is mainly for God and Holiness; thou makest Conscience of all Sin, little as well as great, secret as well as open, and doest not deliberately allow thy self in any: Thou doest in the settled frame of thy Heart prefer the pleasing of God, and value his favour and fellowship above all worldly Good, therefore thou art upright; these Marks are infallible. What, doest thou object thy failings? Art thou under a Covenant of Works? Do you think God now stands upon Perfection? The Covenant is plain: God continueth for Uprightness: And God hath wrought in thee that Condition that he requires of thee. What can be plainer? Wilt thou suffer the Devil and Unbelief to catch the Bread out of thy Hand, when God tells thee it is thine? Wilt thou be against thy self, and refuse thine own Peace; when God is come to Seal thee up to the Day of Redemption? This is that which the Lord here Seals to thee, *That he will be God All-sufficient to thee,* O believe, and be thankful, and rejoyce in thine own Blessedness! O happy, thrice happy Soul, whom the Living God thus signifieth and sealeth to, and assigns over all his infinite Perfections, as its everlasting Possession.

Art. III. *That he will discharge you from all your Debts,* Heb. 8. 10, 12. *This is the Covenant, I will be merciful to their Unrighteousness, and their Sins and Iniquities will I remember no more.* Isa. 1. 18. *Though your Sins be as Scarlet, they shall be as White as Snow.* believest thou this? Come near beloved Christian, approach believingly, and here thou shalt see the Lord crossing out all thy Debts, taking away the

Hand-writing that is against thee, declaring that he hath received a Ransom, and is satisfied, contented, and paid. O happy Man, that shall leave all thy Sins behind thee; why this is the very Thing that the faithful God doth here Seal unto thee. Thy Pardon is written in his most Sacred Blood, which is here shed for the Remission of Sins. So that thou mayst Triumph with the Apostle, *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died*, Rom. 8. 34.

Art. IV. *That he will save you from all your Enemies*, not from the Combate, but from the Conquest. The *Victory shall be sure*, so far God is engaged. So the Covenant runs in its first discovery, that the *Seed of the Woman should break the Serpents Head*, though he should bruise his Heel, Gen. 3. 15. By the *Seed of the Woman* understand not *Christ only*, but all *Believers*: By the *Serpent* understand not *Satan only*, but all his Party, the ungodly, persecuting World, which are his Children: And all our Tyrannous Lusts, which are his Brood, his Works. By his *Bruising our Heel*, understand his molesting, and wounding of us, but not mortally. By our *Breaking his Head*, understand the total and final Victory, which we shall most certainly obtain over him and his Party at last. Christians what should we fear! Death? The Covenant here sealed makes over Death as a Legacy to you, and behold it brings you the Head of your conquered Enemy in a Charger, 1 Cor. 3. 22. *Death is yours*: O blessed and most grateful Present. Satan! The Covenant assures you, God will bruise him under your Feet shortly, Rom. 16. 20. The World! Be of good cheer, *Christ hath overcome the World*, John 16. 33. Hell! *There is no Condemnation for them that are in Christ Jesus*, Rom. 8. 1. Sin! This indeed is to be dreaded, but with a watchful and cautious fear: Not with a fainting, discouraging Fear: *Sin shall not have Dominion over you*, Rom. 6. 13, 14.

Christians,

Christians, here now is Meat for your Faith; What, do all these Holy Promises nothing move you? Or carry little favour, or relish with them? What, shall the Almighty God give it to thee under his own Hand, that thou art a Free-man, and thou make little Account of it? Shall He give thee thy Protection, and thou lay it by as an useless Paper, that signifies little? Oh Sirs, when your Hearts are ready to faint because of the Sons of *Anak*, that be in the way; when you see the black Guard gaping upon you, and the King of Terrors levelling at you, and a wicked World armed with Rage against you, and full of Malice, and the Thieves and Conspirators in the Bosom, watching their Opportunity to betray all to them, yet let not this discourage you. These were enough indeed to make a considering Mans Heart to melt and die within him, but that the Covenant of Grace yields such ample Relief against all. O be ever mindful of the Covenant: Remember what hath past this Day between the Living God and your Souls: Watch, O Christian, and stand fast quit thee like a Man. The Conquest is sure: Who would not Fight with Courage, that hath Assurance of the Victory.

Art. V. *That he will befriend you in all Conditions.* Will be a fast Friend to you in every Change, and turn all Things to your Good, when you are ready to say unbelievingly, with *Jacob*, *All these Things are against me*, Rom. 8. 28. Gen. 42. 36. If he brings you into the Wilderness, *There he will speak comfortably unto you*, Hos. 2. 14. *In the Fire and the Water, He will be with you*, Isa. 43. 2. *He will be a strength to the Poor, a strength to the Needy in his Distress, a Refuge from the Storm, and a Shadow from the Heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a Storm against the Wall*, Isa. 25. 4.

Beloved, here the Lord is come to Seal all these Promises to you : Oh go home and bless your selves in the sweet Security of your Estate. God hath promised you, that whatever Condition you be in, you shall have Succour and Support from him, and enjoy his Presence with you ; and see his Finger in all your Troubles sweetly turning all to the best : Go away and live like Believers. Be not afraid of Sufferings, but shew, that you believe what God hath promised, that Afflictions shall not hurt you. The next Time any Trouble comes upon you, remember what a Promise God hath passed unto you this Day, and wait on him believingly for the happy Issue and Event of every Tryal, that shall befall you.

Art. VI. *That he will take upon him the Care of all your Concernments.* You must be careful in nothing, Phil. 4. 6. He careth for you, 1 Pet. 5. 7. Take no thought what you shall Eat or Drink, neither be of doubtful Mind, but rather seek you the Kingdom of God, and all these Things shall be added to you, Luke 12. 29, 31. Come you to this Holy Ordinance in any Distress or Trouble? Methinks you should go from it as *Hannah*, and your Countenance be no more sad. God will number your Hairs : And will take Care that nothing be lost, John 6. 36. Luke 12. 7. He will take Care of your Names, and bring forth your Righteousness as the Light, Psalm 37. 5, 6. Of your Substance ; He will give Meat to them that fear him, and be ever mindful of his Covenant, Psalm 111. 5. Of your Seed, for he will be a God unto them, and will entail the Blessing upon them, Gen. 17. 7. He commands that your Widows and Fatherless Children should be left on him, He is by Covenant to look after their Concerns, you need not be solicitous. He is tender of you, when he seems most to neglect you, as *Moses's* Sister that was secretly watching behind the Bush, and wistly looking on, to see what was done to the Child,

Child, though to the finders it seemed exposed to Famine, and Death in the Flags.

Art. VII. *That he will give you, or be himself to you instead of all Comforts. He will be a Sun and a Shield, and will give Grace and Glory, and no good Thing will he with-hold from them that walk uprightly, Psalm 84.*

11. Oh! The Treasure in these Words. *I am thy Shield and exceeding great Reward!* I will undertake both for thy Protection and Provision, When Evil affails thee, I will be a Shield to thee: When any good is wanting, I will be a Supply. Thou shalt have Children, or I will be better to thee than ten Children. Thou shalt have Riches, or I will be thy Store. Thou shalt have Friends, if best for thee, or else I will be thy Comforter in thy solitude, thy Counsellor in thy Distress. My Secrets; my Ear and my Door shall be ever open to thee, *Mark 10. 30.* *He shall receive an hundred Fold in this Time;* though he have not the Things themselves, yet he shall have all these, and more than all in me: I will be House, and Friend, and Father to him, all in one. If you should have an hundred Candles burning in the Room, and should put out every one, and open the Window and let in the Sun, this would be better than the hundred Lights that were put out: So here, though you should be called to forsake all, 'twill be but as the letting the Cistern run, and open to the Fountain.

Art. VIII. *That he will maintain you all your Days in his Service.* He will be your Guide even unto Death, *Psalm 48. 14.* Christians, whilst you have a Day to live, God will stand by you. *He will never leave you nor forsake you, Heb. 13. 5.* Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow you all the days of your lives, *Psalm 23. 6.* *And the Lord will never turn away from you to do you good, Jer. 32. 40.* Oh happy Covenant that the Lord sealeth to you.

Art. IX. *That when you come to Age he will give the Kingdom to you.* God saith to the Believer here; *Thine is the Kingdom*: Whatever is promised in the Covenant is Sealed in the Sacrament, *Luke 12. 32. It is your Fathers good Pleasure to give you the Kingdom.* *Luke 22. 29. I appoint unto you a Kingdom.* Mark the Promise is pregnant with a Kingdom. 'Tis no less than a Crown, a Kingdom, that is here delivered unto you, *Luke 19. 12. A certain Noble Man went into a far Countrey, to receive to himself a Kingdom, and to return*: This is the Business you are come for hither. *To receive to your selves a Kingdom, and so to return.* Oh! Methinks you should forget what Ground you go upon, as you are going home, to think what you have received here. Methinks you should go forth as *Haman* from the Banquet, joyful and with a glad Heart. Sirs, do you know what you are doing? Why the Lord doth by these Signs give you the Kingdom as a Man by the delivering unto you a Turf, or a Key, gives Possession of an House or Land. Brethren, have you ever read of the Kingdom of Joy, of the Crown of Life, of the Robes of Righteousness, of the Thrones of Glory? Why all this God here makes over to you. I tell you, Sirs, these are not big Words, nor cunningly devised Fables. God Almighty is here come to certifie you of the reality of his Promises, As sure as you do now sit on your Seats, you shall shortly sit on your Thrones. As sure as you are now clothed with Flesh, so surely shall you be clothed with Glory. Are you sure you are now on Earth? So surely shall you be shortly in Heaven. The Lord intendeth you but for a very little while in this lower Region, you must dwell above; where Christ is, there you must be also. As sure as you now see a crucified Christ, so surely shall you see a glorified Christ. The Lord Jesus doth anticipate his Sentence here, and calls to you, Guest; *Come ye Blessed, inherit the Kingdom.*

Take

Take the writing, behold the Seals, here are the Conveyances of the Kingdom: The Donation is sure and full, unalterable, irrevocable.

Christians, do you believe? If you do, methinks you should be ravished: Methinks you should be filled with Joy unspeakable and full of Glory! But do you stagger at the Promise, through unbelief? Do you say, O it is too much and too great? Why, how can this be? What too great for God to make good? Thou darest not think so, But 'tis too great for me to count upon, Why but Man, dost thou not bear upon thee, the *Mark of the Lord Jesus; whose Image and Superscription is this?* Doth not your very Heart prize Christ above all the World? Hast thou not made a deliberate Choice of him, for thy Head and Husband? Hast thou not entred into a solemn Contract with him, to be his for all Times and Conditions, and Love, Honour and Obey him, before all others, to the Death? And doth not thy Heart stand to this Choice? Hast not thou taken him with his Yoke, and with his Cross? And doest not thou in thy Practice first seek the Kingdom of God, and the Righteousness thereof? And hast not thou chosen the way of the Kingdom? Art not thou in love with Holiness? And desirest Grace more than Gold? Doest not thou prefer an Holy Spiritual Life, before all the Grandeur of the World, and Pleasure of the Flesh? And all this not only for a fit or a flash, but in the settled Frame and Disposition of thy Heart? Surely thou must wrong God and thy self, if thou deniest it to be thus with thee. Why, these are the Marks of the *Lord Jesus* upon thee; the sure Marks. Fear not, these cannot deceive thee: They Evidence, that thou art Born of God, that thou art a Son, and so an Heir; and therefore mayst lay claim to the Inheritance.

Come

Come then, Beloved Christian, be of good Comfort, why shouldest thou doubt? Thou hast the mark of the Sheep, and therefore thy Portion shall be at the Right Hand, and thy Sentence among the blessed. Well then, receive this Holy Sacrament as the Pledge of all this. Go home and look over all these Blessed Promises, and count them thine. Do not read them (as too often heretofore) as if they did not concern thee: Remember, what God hath here promised under Hand and Seal to thee, and let not all be left behind thee, when thou goest hence, but let the remembrance, the Fruit and Sweet of this abide upon thee, whilst thou hast a Day to live. Never forget what the Lord hath here spoken to thy Soul: Make more of the Promises than ever in thy Life before: Bless thy self in them: Remember how the Lord *delivered thee* the Promises: How he Sealed to thee several Articles. How he sprinkled the Blood upon the Book of the Covenant: And gave it thee, and said, *This is the New Testament in my Blood*: Oh live henceforth a Life of Joy and Faith, as a Man that is elevated above the World. Do not live at the old, dull and slothful rate, carry it like a Believer, and in a Word, walk as one that doth indeed take all for Truth that the Lord hath spoken to thee this Day. Let that of the Apostle be a Close to all, 2 Cor. 7. 1. *Having therefore these Promises, Dearly beloved, let us cleanse our selves from all filthiness both of Flesh and Spirit, perfecting Holiness in the fear of God.*

Some

Some Serious Advices and Counfels of the
same Author, address'd to his particular
Friends, peculiarly fitted to promote and
spread Practical Religion.

[*Doing all to God's Glory, the great Business
of Life*]

SHall I commend to you a Lesson that I my self am
about to learn? Namely *To be entirely devoted unto
the Lord, that I may be able to say after the Apostle, To
me to live is Christ.* I would not be serving God only
for a day in the week, or an hour or two in the day;
but every day, and all the day. I am ambitious to come
up towards that of our Lord and Master, *To do always
those things that please God.* I plainly see that self-
seeking is self-undoing; and that then we do pro-
mote our selves best, when we please God most. I
find that when I have done all, if God be not pleas-
ed, I have done nothing; and if I can but approve
my self to God, my work is done. I reckon I do not
live that time I do not live unto God.

I fain to cut off so many hours from my days, and so
many years from my life (so short as it is) as I have
lived unto my self. I find no enemy so dangerous as
my self, and O that others might take warning by
my hurt: O that I had lived wholly unto God!
Then had every day and every hour, that I have spent,
been found upon my account at that great day of
our appearing before God: than I had been rich in-
deed, in treasure laid up there, where I am apace re-
moving; then I had been every day and hour adding
to the heap, and increasing the reward which God
of his meer grace hath promised, even to the meanest
work that is done to him, *Col. 3. 24.* I verily perceive
I am an eternal loser by acting no more as for God;
for

for what is done to my self is lost; but what is done for God, is done for ever, and shall receive an everlasting Reward. Verily, if there be another World to come, and an eternal State after this short Life, it is our only Wisdom to be removing, and, as it were transplanting and transporting what we can, from hence into that Countrey, to which we are shortly to be removed, that what we are now doing, we may be reaping the Fruit of for evermore. The World think themselves wise; but I will pawn my Soul upon it, that this is the true Wisdom.

Well, let us be wholly swallowed up in the concerns of Religion, and know no other Interest but Jesus Christ. I cannot say, I have already attained; but this is that my Heart is set to learn, That in all that I do, whether sacred or civil Actions, still I may be doing but one Work, and driving on one Design, *That God may be pleased by me, and be glorified in me*; that not only my Praying, Preaching, Alms, &c. may be found upon my Account; but even my Eating, Drinking, Sleeping, Visits, Discourses, because they are done as unto God. Too often do I take a wrong Aim, and miss my Mark; but I will tell you what be the Rules I set my self, and do strictly impose upon my self from Day to Day: *Never to lie down, but in the Name of God*; not barely for natural Refreshment, but that a wearied Servant of Christ may be recruited and fitted to serve him better the next Day. *Never to rise up but with this Resolution, Well, I will go forth this Day in the Name of God, and will make Religion my Business, and spend the Day for Eternity. Never to enter upon my Calling, but first thinking, I will do these Things as unto God*, because he requireth these Things at my Hands, in the Place and Station he hath put me into. *Never to sit down to the Table, but resolving, I will not eat meerly to please my Appetite, but to strengthen my self for my Masters Work. Never to make a visit, but upon some Holy Design, resolving to leave something of God where*

where I go; and in every Company to leave some good Saviour behind, &c.

[*Directions in Order to our Living to God.*]

Most endeared Christians,

TO tell you I love and long for you, seems somewhat needless. I cannot doubt of your Confidence, that you have a deep share in my tenderest Affections: For this let my Labours among you, and the Hazards for you speak, rather than I my self. Beloved, I am, without a Complement, the devoted Servant of your Souls Prosperity, and the Interest of Christ in you: May the Lord Jesus be set up higher in your Hearts; may his Name ever live in you, and be magnified by you, and I have what I ask. If this Work be not promoted among you, I shall Account all my Letters but waste Paper, and all my Pains but lost labour. Brethren, I beseech you, that none of you Live to your selves, for this were directly to Cross the very End of Christ's Death: For therefore he Died, that you should not live to your selves, 2 Cor. 5. 15. Oh live to him that Died for you! Live to him that is the God of your Life! Live to him that bought your Lives with the Expence of his own! To him that bought you from Destruction, and not only so, but bought your Names into the Eternal Inheritance, reserved in the Heavens for you. Will a Man be easily perswaded to lose his Life? How infinitely tender are Men here! And yet in the worst Sence, the most of Men do lose their Lives, yea, lose them for nothing. Beloved, consider, I beseech you, that Life is lost, that is not lived unto God. If you would not lose your Lives that you live, see to him, who is the End of your Lives. Oh remember this, and reckon that Day lost which

which you have not lived unto God! Brethren how great a Part of our Lives have we really, Alas! too too really lost? I beseech you take heed: Here you are careful about many Things, but beware that other Things do not put out this, which should be the main of your Cares; to wit, the spending your Days and Strength for him that made you. Would it not be dreadful for a Man to find at last, when he comes to his Account with God, that his whole Life, or at least the main of it had been but damnable self-seeking. That a Man should have so many Years allowed him by God, and he should at last be found to have been but a false and wicked Servant, that had set up for himself with his Masters Stock, and alienated his Goods, and turned them to his own Use? Well, that you may thoroughly learn the grand Lesson of Living unto God, take these Counsels:

First, *Settle it upon your Heart, that it is the Sum of all your Business and Blessedness to live unto God*: 'Tis your Business, for his Pleasure you are and were Created: What have you else to do, but to serve your Maker in your general and particular Callings? What was the Candle made for (saith one) but to be burnt? Beloved, what else have you Strength for, but for God? Doth he maintain Servants, and shall not he look for their Work? Would you endure it, that the Servants, that you find with Meat and Wages, should set up for themselves, that they should eat your Bread, and all the while do their own Work? Beloved, God's Service is your Business, and he made you and keeps you for no other end; and it is your Blessedness too. Labour to be under the rooted Conviction of this Principle, that your very Happiness lies in pleasing and honouring of God. Let the Sense of this live fresh upon your Hearts, and it will regulate your whole Course.

Secondly, *Remember what a dangerous, yea, damnable Thing it is to live to your selves*; To make it your main Care and Business to please and gratifie our
selves,

selves, or to have Applause from and Reputation with others, or to grow Rich in the World, and greaten our Selves and Posterity, is the certain Evidence of a graceless Heart. And though the Godly do make God their principal End in general, yet they must know, that for so much of their Lives as is spent besides this End (which is too too much) they shall suffer loss.

Thirdly, *Labour to keep alive upon your selves a deep Sense of your strong Obligations to God.* Often think with your selves, what a Righteous, what a reasonable Thing it is, that you should with all that you have serve the Lord. Beloved, shall not the Vessel be for the use of the Potter that made it? Shall not the Servant Trade for his Master, with whose Goods he is entrusted? Do you not fetch all your Bread from God's Door? Is not he the Rock that begat you? The Author of your being and well-being? Is not this he that can Crucifie you or Release you? Can save you or damn you at his Pleasure? Is it not from him that you fetch every Breath? Your Interest obliges you to please him. Why should *Belshazzar's* Charge be against you? That the God in whose Hand your Breath is, and whose are all your Ways, you have not glorified, *Dan. 5. 23.*

Fourthly, *Do not only intend God as the general End of your Course, but in every solemn Action actually Mind your End.* Though a Man need not, cannot think of his Journeys-end at every Step, yet with Care he might come to this in every solemn Action, particularly and expressly to mind his End: A Man cannot (nor need he) think at every bit that he puts into his Mouth, I will eat this for God: Yet he might every Time he sits down to his Table, remember to eat and drink, not to gratifie his Flesh, but to glorifie God, by getting Strength for his Work: You cannot think of it in every Step in your Journey; but you may intend some Glory to God by serving his Will in your Place and Station; and so in your Visits and Labours.

Fifthly,

Fifthly, *Every Morning let this be your first and firm Resolution, I will set forth this Day in the Name of God.* Your first and last Thoughts are of greatest Consequence; and therefore I advise you to begin and end with this: When ever you lie down, say in your selves, I will make use of my Bed as an Ordinance of God, that a Servant of his may be refreshed and fitted for his Work: When ever you rise up, think I will spend this Day for God, and follow the Business of my Calling, because I am so appointed by God, *Zech. 10. 12. And they shall walk up and down in his Name, saith the Lord, &c.*

Beloved, I design the Sweetness and Comforts, as well as strictness of your Lives. Live to God as you are directed, and you shall marvelously Prosper in both, &c.

[*Motives to perswade thereto.*]

Most dear Christians,

MY Hearts Desire and Prayer for you is, that you may be saved: Shall I then prevail with you, to do always the Thing that pleaseth God; see that this be your Care, the Care of your very Hearts: Set your Hearts to it as the Business of your Lives, and the very End of your beings, to walk worthy of the Lord unto all well-pleasing. Set home on your selves such Considerations as these.

First, *It is the very Business you were made for, and sent into the World for, to please your Maker.* For his Pleasure you are, and were Created. Why should the Lord repent that he had made you? *Gen. 6. 6.* What treacherous and damnable falshood is this, that when the Lord hath given us Breath and Being, and sent us into the World on purpose on his Service, we should like false and wicked Servants, set up

up for our selves? Why should your Creator say, he hath made you in vain?

Secondly, *If you set your Hearts to please the Lord, you are sure you shall please him.* It is not so with Men, all the Care in the World will not suffice to please some Men. How often do Princes forsake their greatest Favourites? So that if you set to please Men, you are not sure to attain your End at last; yea, rather you are sure not to attain it. But if the Lord doth see your very Hearts be set to please him, he will accept you, though you come short, 2 Cor, 8. 12. Read that sweet Passage, 2 Chron. 6. 75.

Thirdly, *It will be a certain sign of your Sincerity, when the pleasing of the Lord is your greatest Business,* Phil. 1. 20. To such the Promise runs, Isa. 56. 4, 5. It is a distinguishing Evidence truly to seek and prize God's Favour, more than Corn, Wine, Psalm 4. 6, 7.

Fourthly, *This will set all in Order, and bring all your Business to a Head, when you have set down this as one Thing necessary, that you are resolved to please the Lord, this will regulate your whole Lives, and bring all your Business into a little Compass.* A Christian hath but one Thing to do in all Conditions, and that is to carry it so in his present State, as that he may please God. A Man-pleaser: O how many hath he to please! What an endless Work hath such a one to do?

Fifthly, *Consider but how careful the Man-pleasing Parasite, and Time-serving Hypocrite is to please Men.* And shall not we take as much Care to please our God? Oh how doth the flattering Courtier study the Humour of his Prince? Be you as careful to study, and to be acquainted with the Mind of God. What will not Men do to screw themselves into the Favour of the Mighty? Oh that you were but as diligent, and unwearied, and punctual in your Endeavours, to get and to keep the Favour of the Almighty?

Sixthly, Consider whose Favour or Displeasure is of that Consequence to you, as the Lords is of. What if Men should be angry with you, have they the Keys of Hell, and of Death? No, no, fear them not. Can they undo your Souls? Can they send you to Hell? Alas they cannot. See that you dread his Displeasure that can. Alas what will their Favour avail you? If they be pleased, can they stand between the Wrath of God and you? Can they pardon your Sins? Save your Souls? Secure your Eternal Concernments? Where is all their Favour or Good-will, when they or you come to Die? It will not be worth a Rush when most needed. Therefore beloved Brethren, whatever you do, keep in with God: Resolve upon it, *He must* be pleased, though all the World be displeased. Let it be enough to you to have his Good-will; let this be the *One Thing* that bend your selves to seek, and if you set to seek it, you may be sure to find it. The Messenger stays for me, and so I must here shut up my Letter, as Jude doth his. *Ye Beloved, building up your selves in your most Holy Faith, Praying in the Holy Ghost, keep your selves in the Love of God, looking for the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto Eternal Life.* Unto his Grace I commend you all, &c.

[*The Death of Christ improv'd for the destroying Sin.*]

"Most dear Christians,

I Am by Office a Remembrancer, the Lord's Remembrancer for you, and your Remembrancer in the behalf of Christ. My Business is, with the Apostle, to stir up your pure Minds by way of Remembrance. And what or whom should I remember you of, but your mindful Friend, your Intercessour
with

with the Father, who hath you always in remembrance, appearing in the Presence of God for you? May his Memory ever Live in your Hearts, though mine should Die: Oh remember his Love more than Wine, remember in what a Case he found you, and yet nothing could annihilate his Heart, nor divert the Purpose of his Love from you: He loathed not your Rags nor your Rottenness: He found you in a loathsome Vomit and Filthiness, in nasty and verminous Tatters (think not these Expressions too odious: No Pen can describe, no Heart can imagine the odiousness of Sin in his sight, in which you lay and rolled your selves as the filthy Swine in the Mire) yet he pitied you, his Bowels were moved, and his Compassions were kindled, when one would have thought his Wrath should have boiled and his Indignation have burned down to Hell against you: He loathed not but loved you, and washed you from your Sins in his own Blood: Ah monstrous and polluted Captives? Ah vile and putrid Carcasses? That ever the Holy Jesus should take the Hands of you, and should his own self wash you, and rinse you! Methinks I see him weeping over you; and yet it was a more costly Bath, by which he cleansed you. Ah Sinners look upon the streaming Blood, flowing out warm from his blessed Body, to fetch out the ingrained filthiness that you by Sin had contracted. Alas! What a horrid filthiness is Sin, that nothing but the Blood of the Covenant could wash away? And what a love is Christs, that when no Sope nor Nitre could suffice to cleanse us, when a whole Ocean could not wash nor purifie us, would open every Vein of his Heart to do the Work! Look upon your crucified Lord: Do you not see a sacred Stream flowing out of every Member? Ah, how those Holy Hands, those unerring Feet do run a Stream to purge us! Alas, how that innocent Back doth bleed with cruel Scourgings to save ours! How the great drops of Blood fall to the Ground from his sacred Face in

his miraculous Sweat, in his bitter and bloody Agony, to wash and beautifie ours! How his wounded Heart and Side twice pierced, first with Love and Pity, and then with Souldiers cruelty, do pour out their healthful and saving Floods upon us? Lord, how do we make a shift to forget such a Love as this? Ah Mirrors or rather Monsters of ingratitude, that can be unmindful of such a Friend: Do we thus requite him? Is this our kindness to such an obliging Friend! Christians where are your Affections? To what use do you put your Faculties? What have you Memories for, but to remember him? What have you the Power of loving for, but that you should Love him? Wherefore serves Joy or Desire, but to long for him and delightfully to embrace him? May your Souls and all their Powers be taken up with him: May all the little Doors of your Souls be set open to him. Here fix your Thoughts, here terminate your Desires; here you may light your Candle and kindle your Fire when almost out. Rub and Chafe your Hearts well with the deep Consideration of the Love of Christ, and it is a wonder if they do not get some warmth. The Lord shed abroad his Love in your Hearts by the Holy Ghost: Oh, that this Love might constrain you! Brethren, what will you do now for Jesus Christ? Have you never a Sacrifice to lay upon his Altar? Come, and I will shew you what you shall do, let your Hands be in the Blood of your Sins, fall foul with them, search them out with diligence, search your Hearts and Houses; whatever Iniquities you find there, out with them, put them far from your Tabernacles; if you Crucifie them not, you are not Jesus his Friends. God forbid that there should be a lying Tongue, or any way of Deceit in your Shops. That his Service should give Place to the World in your Families. Far be it from any of you, my Brethren, that you should be careful to teach your Children and Servants the way of your Trades and Callings, and neglect to instruct them in the way

way of Life. Is weekly Catechising up in every one of your Families? The Lord convince any of you that may be guilty of this Neglect: Oh, set up God in your Houses; and see that you be not slovenly in Closet Performances: Beware of serving the Lord negligently; serve not the Lord with that which cost you nothing: Look to it, that you Content not your selves with a cheap and easie Religion. Put your Flesh to it: Be well assured, that the Religion, that costs you nothing, will yield you nothing: Keep up the Life of Religion in your Family and Closet Duties. Fear nothing like a customary and careless Performance of Gods Service. Judge your own selves whether lazy Wishes, idle Complaints, and yawning Prayers are like to carry you through the mighty Difficulties that you must get through if ever you come to Heaven. When you find your selves going on in a listless, liveless, heartless Course, and have no Mind to your Work, ask your selves, is this to take the Kingdom of Heaven by Violence, or can I hope to win it without? See that you Sacrifice your selves to the Lord, that you deliver up your selves to him, that now you live to Christ himself. As Christ hath made over his Life and Death to you, so let it be your care to Live and Die to him: Labour to forget your selves and look upon all your Enjoyments as Christs goods; upon your Time, Parts, Strength, as his Talents: Look upon your selves only in the quality of Servants and Stewards that are to Husband all these for your Lord's Advantage, and as those that must give an Account, &c.

[*An Admiration of the Love of Christ.*]

Most Loving and best Beloved,

MY Heart is with you, my Affections are espoused to you. And methinks I could even say with the Apostle, *you are in my Heart, to live and die with you*: The Lord requite your Love which is great with his, which is infinite; this is a Love worthy of your Ambition, worthy of your Adoration and Admiration. This is the Womb that bore you from Eternity, and out of which have burst forth all the Mercies, Spiritual and Temporal, that you enjoy. This was the Love that chose you, when less Offenders, and those that being Converted, might have been a hundred Fold more serviceable to their Makers Glory, are left to perish in their Sins: May your Souls be filled with the Sense of this Love. But it may be you will say, how shall I know if I am an Object of electing Love? Lest an unbelieving Thought should damp your Joy; know in short, that if you have chosen God, he hath certainly chosen you. Have you taken him for your Blessedness? And do you more highly prize, and more diligently seek after Conformity to him, and the Fruition of him than any, than all the Goods of this World? If so, then away with Doubts, for you could not have loved, and have chosen him, unless he had loved you first. Now may my Beloved dwell continually in the Thoughts, the Views, the Tastes of his Love. Get you down under its shadows, and taste its pleasant Fruits. Oh the Provisions that Love hath made for you, before the Foundation of the World! Ah silly Dust, that ever thou shouldest be thought upon so long before thou wast: That the Contrivances of the infinite Wisdom, should be taken up about thee!

That

That such a Crawling Thing, such a Mite, a Flea, should have the Consultations of the Eternal Deity exercised about thee ! Verily his Love to thee is wonderful. Lord, what is Man ; Thou tellest us he is *Dust and Vanity, a Worm, nothing, less than nothing* ; how then dost thou Love him ! Oh wonderful ! Be astonished ye Heavens at this : Be moved ye strong Foundations of the Earth. Fall down ye Elders, strike up ye Heavenly Quires, and sing yet again, *Glory to God in the highest* : For all our Strings would crack to reach the Notes of Love, Praise, and Admiration that this Love doth call for. Oh that ever Emptiness and Vanity, should be thus prized ! That *Jehovah* should make Account of so worthless, so useless a Thing as Man ! That ever baseness should be thus preferred ! That ever nothing should be thus dignified ! That ever rottenness should be thus advanced, a Clod, a Shadow, Potsherd, should be thus glorified ! Oh Brethren, study I beseech you, not to requite or retaliate (there's impossibility, and blasphemy in such a Thought) but to admire and imitate his Love. Let Love constrain you, let Love put you upon doing, and prepare you for Suffering ; forget not a Love so memorable, undervalue not a Love so unvaluable ; I would have you all the Captives of Love : May the Cords of Love draw you towards, and knit you to your Redeemer ; may the divided Streams be united in him. Alas, that our Souls are so narrow, that the Waters are so shallow with us ! How little, how very little would our Love be, if he had it all, infinitely less than the Glow-worm to the Sun, or the Atome to the Universe ? And have we any of this little to spare for him ? Oh that we might Love him with our little ! Ah ! That all our little Powers were engaged for him ! Brethren, here is no Excess : Oh Love the Lord ye his Saints ! He is worthy for whom you shall do this. Do but think what Love hath done for you, and think if you can, what it means to do for you. This is the Love that yearned upon you, when in your Blood, no Eye

pitying you. This is the Love that took you up when you were robbed and wounded, and left for Dead, and poured in Wine and Oyl into your wounds. This is that Love that reprieved, and spared, and pardoned, when the Law had condemned you, and Justice would have had you delivered up; and your Self-condemning Consciences gave up all for lost, concluding there was no Hope. This is the Love, the expensive Love that bought you from the Power of Darknes, from the Eternal Burnings, the Devouring Fire in which you must otherwise have dwelt. Do you not remember how you were Hungry, and it fed you, Naked, and it cloathed you, Strangers, and it took you in, Sick, and it visited you, in Prison, and it came unto you? You were Dead and are Alive, you were Lost and are Found. And methinks I see how Love runs to meet you, and falls upon your Necks, and kisseth the Lips that deserve to be loathed, and rejoices over you, and makes a Festival, and as it were a Holiday in Heaven to you, inviting Angels to rejoice. And if the Friends do rejoice, how much more doth the Father? For saith he, *These my Sons were dead and are alive, were lost and are found.* Oh melting Love! Ah Brethren, how strange is this, that our recovery should be Heavens Triumph, the Joy of God and Angels. That this Love should Feast us, and Feast over us, and our Birth-day should be kept in Heaven: That this should be the Round at Heavens Table, and the burden of the Song above: [*For this my Son was dead, and is alive,*] and well, what remains but that you should be another Manner of People, than ever yet you have been, more Holy, more Humble, more Even, more Resolved, more Lively, more Active? Where is your Zeal for the Lord of Hosts? Will slender returns suffice you in Answer to such a Love? God forbid. But Necessity calls me off from going any further. May the Love that chose you, and redeemed you, for ever dwell in you, and over-sha-
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dow you, and bear you safe to the Kingdom. In the Holy Arms of Divine Love I desire to leave you. May you live under its daily Influences, and be melted and overcome with its warming Beams, with its quickning, piercing, powerful Rays.

[*More on the same Subject.*]

Most dearly Beloved,

Assuredly it is my Joy to serve you, and my Love to you is without Dissimulation: But what do I speak of my Love? It is the Sense of the infinite Love of God your Father that I would have to dwell upon you. Forget me, so you remember him. Let me be very little, so he be very lovely in your Eyes. Let him be as the Bucket that goes up, though I be as the Bucket as goes down. Bury me so, that you do but set the Lord always before you. Let my Name be written in the Dust, so his Name be written deep upon all your Souls.

O Lord, I am thy Servant, truly I am thy Servant, Glorifie thine own Name by me, and thou shalt have my Hand to it, that I will be Content to be hid in Obscurity, and to disappear through the overcoming Lustre and Brightness of thy Glory.

Brethren understand mine Office, I Preach not my self, but the Lord Jesus Christ, and my self your Servant for Jesus sake. Give him your Hearts, and I have my Errand. I am but the Friend of the Bridegroom, and my Business is, but to give you to understand his Love, and to gain your Hearts unto him. He is an Object worthy of my Commendations, and of your Affections. His Love is worth the Writing of, and worth the Thinking of, and worth the Speaking of. Oh my Brethren, never forget I beseech you, how he loveth you. He is in Heaven, and you are
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on Earth; he is in Glory and you in Rags; he is in the shining Throne, and you in dirty Flesh, and yet he loveth you. His Heart is infinitely tender of you. Even now while he is at the right Hand of the Majesty on High, how feelingly doth he cry out at the hurt of his poor Members on Earth? *Saul, Saul, why persecuest thou me!* Oh of what quick Sense is the Sense of our dear Lord unto us! When we are touched on Earth he feels it in Heaven.

Brethren, Christ is real in all that he speaks unto you: He is not like a flourishing Lover, who fills up his Letters with Rhetorick, and hath more Care of the Dress of his Speech, than of the Truth. Who ever gave Demonstration of the reality of his Love at so dear a rate as Christ hath done? Men do not use to die in Jest: Who will impoverish himself to enrich his Friend? And divest himself of his Honour to advance him? And debase himself to Admiration below his own Degree to contract Affinity with him, and all this but to make him believe that he Loves him.

Brethren possess your very Hearts with this, that Christ's Love doth go out with infinite dearneſs towards you. Even now while he is in all his Glory, he earnestly remembers you still. This is the High-Priest that is now entred into the Holy of Holies, doth bear your Names particularly, remembring every poor Believer by Name. He bears your Names, but where? Upon his Breast-plate, upon his Heart saith the Text, *Exod. 28. 29.* Ah Christians I may salute you as the Angel did *Mary, Hail you that are highly favoured: Blessed are you among Men.* Sure your Lot is fallen in an happy Place; what in the Bosom of Christ? Yea, and verily you may believe, and doubt not. I may apply that of *Gabriel, O Daniel, thou art greatly beloved,* unto you; you are beloved indeed, to have your Names written upon the very Heart of Christ now he is in Glory.

Oh,

Oh, Let his *Name* be written then on *your* Hearts. Do not write his Name in the Sand, when he hath written yours upon his *own Breast*! Do not forget him who hath taken such Care, that while he is, he may never forget you, having recorded your Names not only on his *Book*, but on his *Flesh*, and set you as a Seal upon his Heart. He hath you upon his Heart, but why? For a memorial before the Lord continually, so saith the Text. Beloved your Lord is so far from forgetting you in all his Greatness and Glory, that he is gone into Heaven on purpose, there to present you before the Lord, that you may be always in remembrance before him. O Beloved, Glory, yea, and Triumph in his Love; doubtless it must go well with us. *Who shall condemn? It is Christ that died and rose again, and is now making Intercession.* His Interest is Potent. He is always Present. Our Advocate is never out of Court. Never did cause miscarry in his Hand. Trust you safely in him. Happy is that Man for whom he shall undertake to speak.

Oh, the Riches of Christ's Love! He did not think it enough to die for you. His Love and Care doth not end with his natural Life on Earth, but he ever liveth to make Intercession for us. His Love is like his Life, ever, ever: Knowing no Remission in Degree, nor Intermission of Time, no Cessation of working, but is ever, ever, in motion towards us.

But when shall I end, if I suffer my Soul to run out its length, and my running Pen to enlarge according to the Dimensions of this boundless Field of Divine Love? If the Pens of the World were employed to write Volumes of Love, if the Tongues of all the living were exercised in nothing else but talking of this Love; if all the Hearts that be were made up of Love; and all the Powers and Affections of the Mind were turned into one, to wit the Power of Love, yet this were no less than infinitely too little,
either

either to conceive or to express the greatness of Christ's Love.

O my dearly Beloved, may your Souls be swallowed up in this Love. Think and think while you will, you can never think how much you are beloved. See that ye Love again by way of *Gratitude*: though not of *Requital*: What though your Souls be but narrow, and your Powers but little, yet Love him with all you have. Love him with all your Hearts, and all your Strength. To the Meditations, and to the Embraces of Divine Love I leave you, thinking it now not worth while to tell you of my Love, &c.

[*Of Growth in Grace.*]

Most dear and tender Friends,

WHose I am, and whom under God I desire to serve; to build you up in Holiness, and Comfort hath been through Grace my great Ambition. This is that which I have prayed, and laboured for; this hath been the End of all my Applications to you, and to God for you. How do your Souls prosper? Are they in a thriving Case? What Progress do you make in Sanctification? Beloved, I desire to be jealous of you with a Godly Jealousie, lest any of you should lose your Ground in these declining Times: And therefore cannot but be often Calling upon you to look to your standing, and to watch and to hold fast, that no Man take your Crown. Ah! How surely shall you reap in the End if you faint not! Take heed therefore that you lose not the Things you have wrought, but as you have begun well, so go on in the Strength of Christ, and give Diligence to the full Assurance of Hope to the End, 'tis your thriving, I tell you, I drive at.

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Do you need Motives?] First, *How much are you behind Hand?* Oh the fair Advantages that we have lost; What Time, what Sabbaths, Sermons, Sacraments, are upon the Matter lost? How much Work have we yet to do? Are you sure of Heaven yet? Are you fit to die yet? Surely they that are in so much Poverty, under so many great Wants, had need to set upon some more thriving Courses.

Secondly, *Consider what others have gained, whilst we it may be sit down by the loss:* Have we not met many Vessels richly laden, while our Souls are empty? Oh, the rich Booties, the golden Prizes that some have won? While we have folded the Hands to Sleep! Have not many of our own standing in Religion left us far behind them?

Thirdly, *Consider what a spending Time there is coming:* Affliction and Tribulation seem to be not far from you: Had you not need to be well stocked against such a Day? Go to the *Ant* thou Sluggard, she laieth up her Meat in the Summer. Happy Man that can say to his Soul on good Grounds, what he vainly spake, *Thou hast much Goods laid up for many Years:* Who will not Victual the Castle against the Siege? And the Ship against the Voyage?

Fourthly, *Consider you will find all little enough when you come to die:* The wise among the Virgins have no Oyl to spare at the coming of the Bridegroom; Distress, and Temptations, and Death will put all your Graces to it. How much ado have many poor Saints had at last to put into this Harbour? *David* cries for Respite till he had recovered a little more Strength.

Fifthly, *Consider how little it will avail you to thrive in your Estates, and not thrive in your Souls:* Poor *Gehazi*! What did he get by it when he gained *Naa-man's* Talents, and came off with his Leprosie?

Sixthly, *Consider how short your Time for gathering in probability is:* The *Israelites* gathered twice so much Manna against the Sabbath, as they did at other Times,

Times, because at that Time there was no Manna fell. Brethren, you know not how long you have to lay in for.

Seventhly, *Consider Gods Expectations are great from you*: He hath been lopping and pruning you, and now he looks for *more Fruit*: He hath had you for some time under his more severe Discipline, and therefore expects you should be better Proficients: He hath tried new Means with you, and is come to you with a Rod; and he will be angry with a Witness if he do not find you now to mend. Times of Afflictions use to be gaining Times to God's People; God forbid that you alone should be losers.

Do you ask for Marks how you may know your Souls to be in a thriving Case?

First, *If your Appetites be more strong*. Do you thirst after God, and after Grace, more than heretofore? Do your Cares for, and Desire after the World abate? And do you hunger and thirst after Righteousness! Whereas you were wont to come with an Ill-will to Holy Duties, do you come to them as an hungry Stomach to its Meat?

Secondly, *If your Pulses beat more even*. Are you still off and on, hot and cold? Or is there a more even spun Thread of Holiness through your whole Course? Do you make good the Ground from which you were formerly often beaten off?

Thirdly, *If your natural heat do grow more vigorous, and your Digestion more quick*. Do you take more Notice of God in every Thing, than heretofore? And let none of his Works, nor Words pass without some careful Attention, and Observation? Do you ponder upon, and pray over his Word, and his Providences?

Fourthly, *If you do look more to the Compass, and Latitude of Religion, and Mind more than ever, the carrying on together the Duties of both Tables*. Do you not only look to the keeping of your own Vineyards, but do you begin to look more abroad, and to lay out
your

your selves for the good of others, and are filled with zealous Desires for their Conversion and Salvation? Do you manage your Talk and your Trade, by the rules of Religion?

Do you Eat and Sleep by Rule? Doth Religion form, and mould, and direct your Carriage towards Husband, Wife, Parents, Children, Masters, Servants? Do you grow more universally Conscientious? Is Piety more diffusive then ever with you, doth it come more abroad with you, out of your Closets, into your Houses, your Shops, your Fields? Doth it Journey with you, and Buy and Sell for you? Hath it the casting Voice in all you do?

Fifthly, *If the Duties of Religion be more easie, sweet, and delightful to you.* Do you take more delight in the Word than ever? Are you more in Love with Secret Prayer, and more abundant in it? Cannot you be Content with your ordinary Seasons, but are ever and anon making extraordinary visits to Heaven? And upon all Occasions turning aside to talk with God in some short Ejaculations? Are you often darting up your Souls Heaven-wards? Is it Meat and Drink for you, to do the Will of God? Do you come off more freely with God, and answer his Calls, and open at his Knocks, with more alacrity and readiness of Mind?

Sixthly, *If you are more abundant in those Duties which are most displeasing to the Flesh.* Are you more earnest upon the Duty of Mortification? Are you more strict and severe than ever in the Duty of Self-Examination, and Holy Meditation? Do you hold the Reins harder upon the Flesh than ever? Do you keep a stricter Watch upon your Appetites? Do you set a stronger guard upon your Tongues? Have you a more jealous Eye upon your Hearts?

Seventhly, *If you grow more vile in your own Eyes.* Pride is such a choaking Weed, that nothing will prosper near it. Do you grow more out of Love with Mens esteem, and set less by it? Are you not

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marvellous tender of being slighted? Can you re-joyce to see others preferred before you? Can you heartily value, and love them that think meanly of you?

Eighthly, If you grow more quick of Sense, more tender of sinning, more sensible of Divine Influences, or Withdrawings. Are you more afraid of sin than ever? Are your Sins a greater Pain to you than heretofore? Are your very Infirmities, your great Afflictions? And the daily workings of Corruption a continual grief of Mind to you?

Ninthly, If you are acted more by Love to God and Faith in these Promises. Fear is a slavish Principle: Do you find that you are acted less by fear, and more by Love? Do you look more frequently to the Things not seen than ever? And doth the World abate in your esteem? Do you go more out of your selves? Do you live upon Christ as the Spring of your Life, and make more use of him upon all occasions than ever? Do you prize the Promises more, and hug and imbrace them with greater dearness, and live more upon them.

Tenthly, If you grow of a more publick Spirit. A selfish Spirit is unworthy of a Christian: Are the common Concernments of God's Glory, and the Prosperity of the Church, much upon your Hearts? Will it no way content you to dwell in Plenty, Peace, and Safety your selves, except you may see Peace upon *Israel*? Do the wounds in Gods Name and Glory go deep into you? Are the Sins of others your Sorrows?

Time and room, and Strength fails to add Means too, as I intended. I have trespassed in length already, may these be helps to you to put you forward, and to help you in discerning your growth. I must conclude abruptly, and commend you to God, &c.

[A remembrance of Christ's Second Coming.]

Loving and most dearly Beloved,

THE Conscience of my Duty, and the workings of my Heart towards you, are still Calling upon me to stir you up by way of Remembrance, notwithstanding you know and be established in the present Truth. And if *Paul* do call upon so great an Evangelist as *Timothy*, to Remember that *Jesus was raised from the Dead according to the Gospel*, why should not I be often Calling upon my self, and upon you, my dearly Beloved, to remember and meditate upon, and closely apply the great and weighty Truths of the Gospel, which you have already received? And in Truth, I perceive in *my self and you* another manner of heat and warmth in the insisting upon the plainest Principles of Christianity, and the setting them home upon *mine own Hearts and yours*, than in dwelling upon any more *abstruse Speculations*, in the clearest handling of which, the Preacher may seem to be too much like the Winter Nights, very bright, but very cold.

But now, my Brethren, I shall not with *Paul* call upon you so much to remember the Resurrection of Christ, as the Return of Christ: Behold, *He cometh in the Clouds, and every Eye shall see him: Your Eyes and mine Eyes: And when all the Tribes of the Earth shall mourn because of him; yet we shall lift up our Heads, because the Day of our Redemption draweth nigh: This is the Day I look for, and wait for, and have laid up all my Hopes in. If the Lord return not, I profess my self undone, my Preaching is vain, and my Suffering is vain, and the Bottom in which I have intrusted all*
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my Hopes is for ever miscarried. But I know whom I have trusted: We are built upon the Foundation of that sure Word, we are not built upon the Sand of Mortality. Nor do we run so as uncertainly, but the Word of the Lord abideth for ever, upon which Word do we hope; how fully doth this Word assure us, that this same Jesus that is gone up into Heaven shall so return, and that he shall appear the Second Time unto Salvation, to them that look for him. Oh, how sure is the Thing! How near is the Time! How glorious will his appearing be!

The Thing is sure, the Day is set, God hath appointed a Day, wherein he will judge the World by that Man whom he hath ordained; the manner of it is revealed, *Behold the Lord cometh with Ten Thousand of his Saints*: The Attendants are appointed and nominated. *The Son of Man shall come in his Glory, and all his Holy Angels with him.* The Thing you see is established, and every Circumstance is determined. How sweet are the Words that dropped from the precious Lips of our departing Lord! What generous Cordials hath he left us in his parting Sermons, and his last Prayer! And yet of all the rest those are the sweetest, *I will come again and receive you to my self, that where I am, there you may be also.* What need you any further Witness: You have heard him your selves, assuring you of his return. Doubtless he cannot deceive you, you have not only known, but seen and felt the Truth of his Promises.

And will he come? Tremble then ye Sinners, Triumph ye Saints, Clap your Hands all ye that look for the Consolation of *Israel*. O Sinners, where will you then appear? How will you look upon him, whom you have pierced; whom you have persecuted? Whose great Salvation you have neglected and despised? Wo unto you that ever you were
Born,

Born, unless you should then be found to be *New-born*.

But you, O Children of the most high, how will you forget your Travel, and be melted into Joy. This is he in whom you have believed; whom having not seen ye loved. But how will Love and Joy be working (if I may so speak) with pangs unutterable, when you shall see him, and hear his sweet Voice commending, applauding, approving of you, and owning you by Name before all the World. Brethren, thus it must be, the Lord hath spoken it. See that you stagger not at the Promise, but give Glory to God by believing.

Again, the Time is near, *Yet a little while, and he that shall come will come. Behold, I come quickly, faith he: And again, The Lord is at Hand:* Sure you are, that Death cannot be far off. O Christian, thou dost not know but the next Year, nay, possibly the next Week, thou mayest be in Heaven. Christ will not long endure thine Absence, but will have thee up to him, till the Time of his general Appearing; when he will take us up all together, and so we shall be ever with the Lord.

Soul, believest thou this? If thou dost indeed, what remains, but that thou shouldst live a Life of Love and Praise; studying to do all the good thou canst till thou come to Heaven; and waiting all the Days of thine appointed Time, till thy Change shall come? O my Soul look out and long. O my Brethren be you as the Mother of *Sisera*, looking out at the Windows, and watching at the Lattices, saying, why are his Chariots-wheels so long a coming? Though the Time till you shall see him be but very short, yet Love and longing make it seem tedious.

My Beloved, Comfort your Hearts with these Words: Look upon these Things as the greatest
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Realities, and let your Affections be answerable to your Expectations. I would not have told you these Things, unless I had believed them, &c.

[*How to overcome the World.*]

My Dear Friends,

MY Heart is with you, though I am Absent, as to my Bodily presence, from you, and therefore as I have often already, so I have now written to you to stir up your pure Minds by way of Remembrance, and to call upon you for your stedfast continuing, and vigorous proceeding in the ways of God.

I have often warned you not to build upon an External Happiness; and that you should Promise your selves nothing but hardship here: Oh still remember your Station; Soldiers must not count upon Rest, and Fulpells, but Hunger, and Hardness. Labour to get right Apprehensions of the World. Do not think these Things necessary; one Thing is needful: You may be happy in the want of all, outward Comforts. Do not think your selves undone, if brought to Want or Poverty: Study Eternity, and you will see it to be little material to you, whether you are Poor or Rich; and that you may have never such an Opportunity for your Advantage in all your Lives, as when you put all to Hazard, and seem to run the Vessel upon the Rocks. Set your Enemies one against the other; Death against the World, no such way to get above the World, as to put your selves into the Possession of Death.

Look often upon your Dust that you shall be reduced to, and imagine you saw your Bones tumbled out of your Graves, as they are like shortly to be, and Men handling your Skulls, and enquiring whose

is this. Tell me of what Account will the World be then, what Good will it do you? Put your selves often into your Graves, and look out from thence upon the World, and see what Judgment you have of it then. Must not you shortly be forgot among the Dead? Your Places will know you no more, and your Memory will be no more among Men, and then what will it Profit you to have lived in Fashion and Repute, and to have been Men of esteem? One serious walk over a Church-Yard, *as one speaks*, might make a Man mortified to the World. Think upon how many you Tread, but you know them not: No doubt they had their Estates, their Friends, their Trades, their Businesses, and kept as much stir in World as others do now. But alas, what are they the better for any, for all this? Know you not that this must be your own Case very shortly? Oh the unhappiness of deceived Man! How miserably is he bewitched, and befooled that he should expend himself for that which he knows shall for ever leave him. Brethren, I beseech you lay no stress upon these perishing Things, but labour to be at a Holy indifference about them: Is it for one that is in his Wits, to sell his God, his Conscience, his Soul, for Things that he is not sure to keep a Week, nor a Day, and which he is not sure after a few sleepings and wakings more to leave behind him for ever? Go and talk with dying Men, and see what Apprehensions they have of the World? If any should come to such as these, and tell them here is such and such Preferments for you, you shall have such Titles of Honour and Delights, if you will now disown Religion, or subscribe to Iniquity; do you think such a Motion would be embraced? Brethren, why should we not be wise in time! why should we not now be of the Mind of which we know we shall be all shortly? Woe to them that will not be wise till it be to no Purpose! Woe to them whose Eyes nothing but Death and Judgment will open! Woe

to them that though they have been warned by others, and have heard the World's greatest Darlings in Death to cry out of its vanity, worthlesness and deceitfulness, and have been told where and how it it would leave them, yet would take no Warning; but only must serve themselves too, for Warning to others. Ah! my Beloved, beware there be no worldly Professors among you, that will part rather with their part in Paradise, than their part in *Paris*; that will rather part with their Consciences than with their Estates; that have secret reserves in hearts to save themselves whole, when it comes to the pinch; and not to be of the Religion that will undo them in the World. Beware that none of you have your hearts where your feet should be, and love your *Mammon* before your *Maker*. It is time for you to learn with *St. Paul*, to be Crucified to the World.

But it is time for me to remember that 'tis a Letter, and contain my self within my Limits. *The God of all Grace, stablish, strengthen and settle you, &c.*

A Solemn Resignation to God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. By another Hand. Mr Baxter.

O My God, I look to Thee, I come to Thee, to thee alone ! No Man, no worldly creature made me ; none of them did redeem me ; none of them did renew my soul, none of them will justify me at thy Bar, nor forgive my sin, nor save me from thy penal Justice, none of them will be a full or a perpetual felicity or portion for my soul. I am not a stranger to their promises and performances I have trusted them too far, and followed them too long ! O that it had been less, though I must thankfully acknowledge, that mercy did early shew me their deceit, and turn my enquiring thoughts to thee :) to thee I *resign* my self, for I am *thine own* ! to thee I *subject* all powers of my Soul and body, for thou art my Rightful Sovereign Governour. From thee I *thankfully* accept of all the benefits and comforts of my life : in thee I expect my true felicity and content : To know thee, and love thee, and delight in thee, must be my blessedness, or I must have none. The little tastes of this sweetness which my thirsty Soul hath had, do tell me, that there is no other real joy. I feel that thou hast *made* my mind to *know thee*, and I feel thou hast made my heart to love thee, my tongue to praise thee, and all that I am and have to serve thee ! And even in the panting languishing desires and motions of my soul, I find that thou, and only thou, art its resting place : And though Love do now but *search*, and *pray*, and *cry*, and *weep*, and is reaching upward, but cannot reach the Glorious light, the blessed knowledge, the perfect love, for which it longeth ; yet by its eye, its aim, its motions, its moans, its groans,

I know its meaning, where it would be, and I know its end. My displaced soul will never be *well*, till it come near to thee, till it know thee better, till it love thee more. It loves it self, and justifieth that self-love when it can love thee: It loaths it self, and is weary of it self as a lifeless burden, when it feels no pantings after thee. Wert thou to be found in the most solitary desert, it would seek thee; or in the uttermost parts of the earth, it would make after thee: Thy presence makes a croud, a Church: Thy converse maketh a closet, or solitary wood or field, to be kin to the Angelical Chore. The creature were dead, if thou wert not its life; and ugly, if thou wert not its beauty; and insignificant, if thou wert not its sense. The soul is deformed, which is without thine Image; and lifeless, which liveth not in love to thee, if love be not its pulse, and prayer, and praise, its constant breath: the Mind is unlearned which readeth not thy Name on all the World, and seeth not **HOLINESS TO THE LORD** engraven upon the face of every creature, He doteth that doubteth of thy Being or Perfections, and he dreameth who doth not live to thee. O let me have no other portion! No reason, no love, no life but what is devoted to thee, employed *on* thee, and *for* thee here, and shall be perfected in thee, the only perfect final object, for evermore. Upon the Holy altar erected by thy Son, and by thy hands and his mediation, I humbly devote and offer thee **THIS HEART**: O that I could say with greater feeling, *This flaming, loving, longing Heart!* But the sacred fire which must kindle on my sacrifice, must come from thee; it will not else ascend unto thee: Let it Consume this dross, so the nobler part may know its home. All that I can say to commend it to thine acceptance, is, that I hope its wash'd in precious blood, that there is Something in it that is thine own; it still looketh towards thee, and groaneth to thee, and followeth after thee and will be content with gold, and mirth, and honour
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and such inferiour fooleries no more: It lieth at thy doors, and will be entertain'd or perish. Though alas, it loves thee not as it would, I boldly say, it longs to love thee, it loves to love thee; it seeks, it craves no greater blessedness than perfect endless mutual love, it is vowed to thee, even to thee alone; and will never take up with shadows more; but is resolved to lie down in sorrow and despair, if thou wilt not be in *REST* and *JOY*. It hateth it self for loving thee no more; accounting no want, deformity; shame or pain so great and grievous a calamity.

For thee the Glorious blessed GOD, it is that I come to *Jesus Christ*. If he did not reconcile my guilty soul to thee, and did not teach it the heavenly art and work of Love, by the sweet communications of thy love, he could be no Saviour for me. Thou art my only untimate end! it is only a guide and way to thee that my anxious soul hath so much studied: And none can teach me rightly to know thee, and to love thee, and to live to thee, but thy self: It must be a Teacher sent from thee, that must conduct me to thee. I have long looked round about me in the world, to see if there were a more lucid Region, from whence thy will and glory might be better seen, than that in which my lot is fallen: But no Traveller that I can speak with, no Book which I have turn'd over, no Creature which I can see, doth tell me more than *Jesus Christ*. I can find no way so suitable to my soul, no medicine so fitted to my misery, no blows so fit to kindle love, as faith in Christ, the Glass and Messenger of thy love. I see no doctrine so divine and heavenly, as bearing the image and superscription of God, nor any so fully confirmed and delivered by the attestation of thy own Omnipotency; nor any which so purely pleads thy cause, and calls the Soul from *self* and *vanity*, and condemns its sin and purifieth it, and leadeth it directly unto thee; and though my former ignorance disabled me to look back to the Ages past, and to see the methods of thy providence, and when I
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look into thy Word, disabled me from seeing the beautiful methods of thy Truth; thou hast given me a glimpse of clearer light, which hath discovered the reasons and methods of grace, which I then discerned not, And in the midst of my most hideous temptations and perplexed thoughts, thou keptst alive the root of faith, and keptst alive the love to thee and unto Holiness which it had kindled. Thou hast mercifully given me the *witness* in my self; not an *unreasonable persuasion* in my *mind*, but that *renewed nature* those holy and heavenly desires and delights, which sure can come from none but thee. And O how much more have I perceived in many of thy servants, than in my self! thou hast cast my lot among the souls whom Christ hath healed. I have daily conversed with those whom he hath raised from the dead. I have seen the power of thy Gospel upon sinners: All the love that ever I perceived kindled towards thee, and all the True Obedience that ever I saw performed to thee, hath been effected by the word of Jesus Christ: How oft hath this spirit helped me to pray! and how often hast thou heard those prayers! what pledges hast thou given to my staggering faith, in the works which prayer hath procured, both for my self and many others? And if Confidence in Christ be yet deceit, must I not say that thou hast deceived me? who I know canst neither be deceived, or by any falshood or seduction deceive.

On thee therefore, O my dear Redeemer, do I cast and trust this sinful soul! with *Thee* and with thy *holy Spirit* I renew my Covenant: I *know* no other; I *have* no other; I *can* have no other Saviour but thy self: To thee I deliver up this soul which thou hast redeemed, not to be advanced to the wealth, and honours, and pleasures of this world; but to be delivered from them, and to be healed of sin and brought to God; and to be saved from this present evil world which is the portion of the ungodly and unbelievers: to be washed in thy Blood, and illuminated quickened and confirmed by thy **SPIRIT**; and conducted
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in the ways of holiness and love; and at last to be presented justified and spotless to the Father of spirits, and possessed of the glory which thou hast promised. O thou that hast prepared so dear a medicine for the cleansing of polluted guilty souls, leave not this unworthy soul in its guilt, or in its pollution! O thou that knowest the Father, and his Will, and art nearest to him, and most beloved of him, cause me in my degree to know the Father; acquaint me with so much of his will, as concerneth my duty, or my just encouragement: Leave not my Soul to grope in darkness, seeing thou art the Sun and Lord of Light. O heal my estranged thoughts of God! is he my light, and life, and all my hope? and must I dwell with him for ever? and yet shall I know him no better than thus? shall I learn no more that have such a Teacher? and shall I get no nearer him, while I have a Saviour and a Head so near? O give my faith a clearer prospect into that better world! and let me not be so much unacquainted with the place in which I must abide for ever. And as thou hast prepared a Heaven, for Holy souls, prepare this too-unprepared soul for Heaven, which hath not long to stay on earth. And when at death I resign it into thy hands, receive it as thine own, and finish the Work which thou hast begun, in placing it among the blessed Spirits, who are filled with the sight and love of God. I trust thee living; let me trust thee dying and never be ashamed of my trust,

And unto Thee, the Eternal Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, the Communicative LOVE, who condescendest to make *Perfect* the Elect of God, do I deliver up this dark imperfect Soul, to be further renewed, confirmed and perfected, according to the holy Covenant. Refuse not to bless it with thine indwelling and operations; quicken it with thy life; irradiate it by thy light; sanctifie it by thy love; actuate it purely, powerfully and constantly by thy holy motions. And though the way of thy sacred influx be
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beyond the reach of humane apprehension ; yet let me know the reality and saving power of it, by the happy effects. Thou art more to Souls, than Souls to Bodies, than Light to the Eyes. O leave not my Soul as a carrion destitute of thy Life ; nor its eyes as useless, destitute of thy light ; nor leave it as a senseless block without thy motion. The remembrance of what I was without thee, doth make me fear lest thou shouldest with-hold thy grace. Alas, I feel, I daily feel that I am dead to all good, and all that's good is dead to me, if thou be not the life of all. Teachings and reproofs, mercies and corrections, yea, the Gospel it self, and all the liveliest Books and Sermons, are dead to me, because I am dead to them : Yea, God is as no God to me, and Heaven as no Heaven and Christ as no Christ, and the clearest evidences of Scripture verity are as no proofs at all, if thou represent them not with light and power to my Soul : Even as all the glory of the world is as nothing to me without the light by which its seen. O thou that hast begun, and given me those heavenly intimations and desires, which flesh and blood could never give me, suffer not my folly to quench these sparks, nor this brutish flesh to prevail against thee, nor the powers of hell to stifle and kill such a heavenly seed. O pardon that folly and willfulness, which hath too often, too obdurately and too unthankfully striven against thy grace ; and depart not from an unkind and with sinful soul ! I remember with grief and shame, how I wilfully bore down thy motions ; punish it not desertion, and give me not over to my self. Art thou not in Covenant with me, as my *Sanctifier*, and *Confirmer*, and *Comforter* I never undertook to do these things for my self ; but I consent that you shouldest work them on me. As thou art the Agent and Advocate of Jesus my Lord, O plead his cause effectually in my Soul, against the suggestions of Satan and my unbelief ; and finish his healing saving work ; and let not the flesh or world prevail. Be in me the resident witness of my Lord,

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the Author of my prayers, the Spirit of Adoption the Seal of God, and the earnest of mine inheritance Let not my nights be so long, and my days so short nor sin eclipse those beams which have often illuminated my soul. Without thee, Books are senseless scrawls studies are dreams, learning is a Glow-Worm, and wit is but wantonness, impertinency and folly. Transcribe those sacred precepts on my heart, which by thy dictates and inspiration are recorded in thy holy word I refuse not thy help for tears and groans: But O shed abroad that love upon my heart, which may keep it in a continual Life of Love. And teach me the work which I must do in Heaven: refresh my Soul with the delights of Holiness, and the joys which arise from the believing hopes of the everlasting joys: Exercise my Heart and Tongue in the Holy praises of my Lord. Strengthen me in sufferings; and conquer the terrors of Death and Hell. Make me the more Heavenly, by how much the faster I am hastening to Heaven: And let my last thoughts words and works on earth, be most like to those which shall be my first in the state of glorious immortality; where the Kingdom is delivered up to the Father, and GOD will for ever be *All*, and *In all* of whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things, To whom be glory for ever. *Amen.*



